



GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

# STANDARD NINE

# SOCIAL SCIENCE

A publication under Free Textbook Programme of Government of Tamil Nadu

Department Of School Education

**Untouchability is Inhuman and a Crime**

## Government of Tamil Nadu

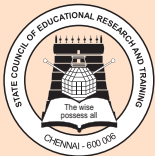
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E - book



Assessment



DIGI links



## HOW TO USE THE BOOK



### **Learning Objectives**

The scope of the lesson is presented



### **QR Code**

Leads the students to animated audio, video aids for getting experiential learning

### **Infographs**

Visual representations intended to make the complex simple and make the students grasp difficult concepts easily

### **Summary**

Describes the main points briefly in bullets for recapitulation



### **Glossary**

Key words and technical terms explained at the end of each subject for clarity



### **ICT Corner**

Using technology for learning activities, which enables the students to access digital sources relevant to their lessons.



## **Introduction**

The subject to be discussed in the lesson is introduced

## **Do You Know?**

Provides additional information related to the subject in boxes to stir up the curiosity of students



## **Fun with Activities**

Activities for 'learning by doing' individually or in groups

## **Exercise**

For self-study and self evaluation



## **Reference**

List of books and net sources for further reading





# STANDARD NINE

# HISTORY



## UNIT

# 1

# Evolution of Humans and Society - Prehistoric Period

## Learning Objectives

- To trace the world's early history
- To understand human evolution
- To know prehistoric Tamilagam up to the Iron Age



## Introduction

We live in the age of Information Technology. The mobile phones have literally put the world on our finger tips. The all-encompassing knowledge that we possess now, which has helped in the development of powerful technology, did not emerge all of a sudden. The foundation of our modern life was facilitated by the development of the process of cognition among the human ancestors in the prehistoric age.

Prehistoric people were the pioneers of creative knowledge. From the artefacts and the languages they developed, we are able to understand how intelligent they were.

### 1.1 Origin of the Earth and the Geological Ages

The history of humans is closely related to the history of the earth. The earth contains geological, archaeological and biological records of historical times in its upper layers. They are important for reconstructing the history of the earth and various living organisms. The fossil bones of the human ancestors are embedded in the earth's layers.



Palaeoanthropologists and archaeologists excavate the soil and rock layers on the earth and extract evidence about human ancestors. These layers and the fossils are scientifically dated to study the various stages in human evolution and prehistory. Through the gathered evidence, they attempt to understand the evolution of human history and developments in a chronological order.

**Archaeology** is the study of human past through the analysis and interpretation of material remains.

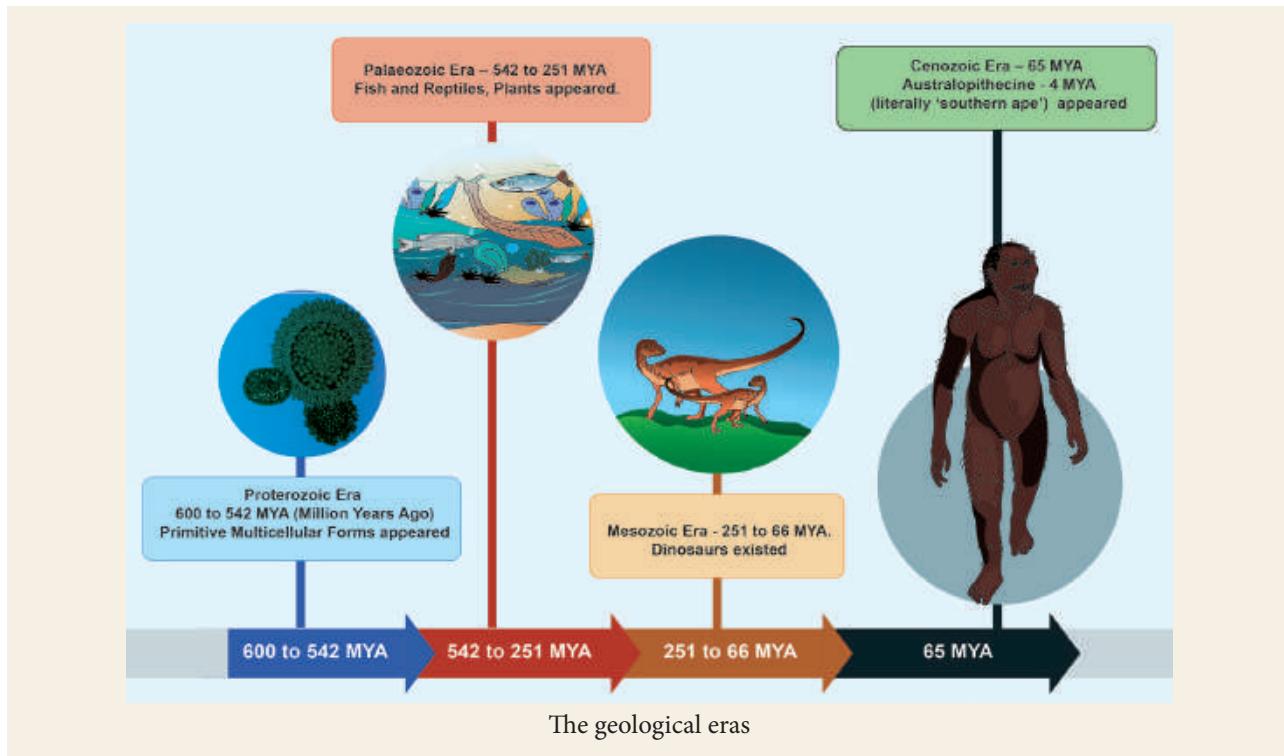
**Palaeoanthropology** is the study of the human ancestors and their evolution by the study of the fossil remains.

The earth was formed approximately 4.54 billion years ago. Gradually, conditions emerged for the growth of organisms. Then plants and animals came into being, and thereby foundation was laid for the evolution of humans. The long span of time in the history of earth is divided into eras, periods and epochs by the geologists

**1 billion = 100 crore**

**1 million = 10 lakh**

**Australopithecines** were the apes from which modern humans evolved. Now they are extinct, but they are considered to be the close relatives of humans.



## 1.2

### Human Enquiries into the Past and Origin of the World

#### The Age of Speculation

Humans are the only species on earth concerned with understanding as well as explaining the world and the universe. In the course of evolution, humans became conscious and knowledgeable. They turned curious and began to think and ask questions about nature, organisms and the world around them. At first, they considered nature as God. They worshipped sun, moon and various natural forces about which they developed their own understanding, some of which is not scientific. The lack of scientific knowledge on the creation of the world is reflected in the ancient writings and religious literature.

**BC (BCE)** – Before Common Era

**AD (CE)** - Common Era



### Scientific Foundations of Geology, Biology and Archaeology

The beginning of history writing can be traced to the ancient Greeks. Herodotus (484–425 BC (BCE)) is considered the Father of History, because the history he wrote was humanistic and rationalistic. The rise of scientific enquiry into the origin of humans was possible because of

- The interest in collection of archaeological remains and the opening of museums after the Renaissance Movement;
- The development of ideas of stratigraphy and geology;
- Darwin's theory of biological evolution;
- The discovery of human and animal fossils, stone tools, and artefacts of early civilizations; and
- The ability to decipher early scripts.

**Stratigraphy** – The study of origin, nature and relationships of rock and soil layers that were formed due to natural and cultural activities.



**Oldest Museum** – The museum of Ennigaldi-Nanna in Mesopotamia was established in 530 BC (BCE). The Princess Ennigaldi was the daughter of the neo-Babylonian king Nabonidus. The Capitoline Museum in Italy is perhaps the oldest surviving museum (1471 AD (CE)) at present. Ashmolean Museum at Oxford University is the oldest university museum in the world. It was established in 1677 AD (CE).

Herbert Spencer's (1820–1903 AD (CE)) biological evolution, and Charles Darwin's (1809–1882 AD (CE)) theory on concepts of **natural selection and survival of the fittest** contributed to the scientific understanding of human origins. Charles Darwin published the books *On the Origin of Species* in 1859 and *The Descent of Man* in 1871.

**Natural selection** – The process by which organisms that are better adapted to their environment would survive and produce more offspring.

**Survival of the fittest** means “survival of the form that will leave the most copies of itself in successive generations.”

**Fossil** – Prehistoric animal or plant that turns into stone over a period of time (millions of years) because of chemical and physical processes. Animal bones are preserved due to mineralization. Palaeontology is the study of fossils.

**Stone Age** – the period when stone was mainly used for making implements.

**Bronze Age** – the period when bronze metallurgy (extraction of metal from ores) developed.

**Iron Age** – the period when iron was smelted to produce implements.

Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, scholars have used advanced scientific techniques. They undertook systematic studies to contribute to the current state of knowledge on prehistory,

human origins and the early civilisations. Now the theory of human evolution is widely accepted.

### 1.3

## Prehistory: From Australopithecus through Homo erectus to Homo sapiens

Who are we? What is the name of our species?

**We are *Homo sapiens***

## Human Evolution and Migration

The chimpanzee, gorillas and orangutans, along with humans, are collectively called the Great Apes. Among them, the chimpanzee is genetically the closest to humans.

The ancestors to humans were called Hominins, and their origins have been traced in Africa. They evolved from those origins and then began to move to other parts of the world in due course of time. The *Hominins* emerged around 7 to 5 million years ago. Skeletons of *Australopithecus*, one of the early species of this tribe, have been found in Africa.

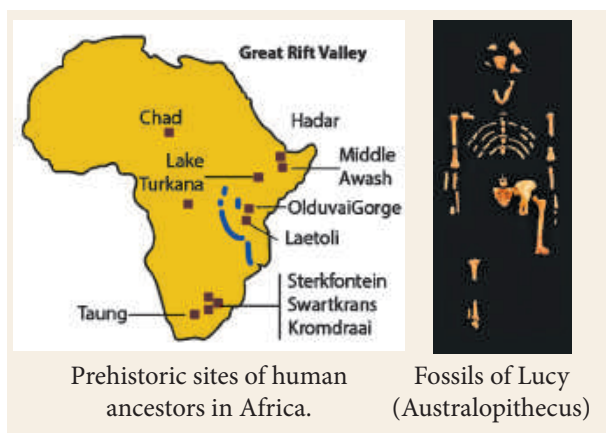
The Great Rift Valley in Africa has many sites that have evidence for the prehistoric period.



The DNA of a chimpanzee is 98% identical to that of a human being.

The Great Rift Valley is a valley-like formation that runs for about 6,400 km from the northern part of Syria to Central Mozambique in East Africa. This geographical feature is visible even from the space, and many prehistoric sites are found in eastern Africa.

Human ancestors are divided into various species according to their physical features.



**Hominid** refers to all the species of the modern and extinct great apes, which also includes humans.

**Hominins** (a zoological tribe) refers to the close relatives of human ancestors and their sister species including *Homo sapiens* (the modern humans) and the extinct members of *Homo neanderthalensis*, *Homo erectus*, *Homo habilis* and various species of *Australopithecines*. Humans are the only living species of this 'tribe'. They stand erect, walk with two legs and have large brains. They can use tools and a few of them can communicate. It excludes the gorillas.

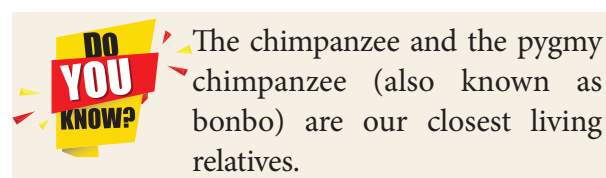
*Homo habilis* (handy human) was the earliest known human ancestors to make tools in Africa about 2.6 million years ago. Around 2 million years ago, the species of *Homo erectus/ergaster* emerged. This species made hand axes between 2 and 1 million years ago. They began to spread into various parts of Asia and Africa in time.

Anatomically, modern humans, called *Homo sapiens* (wise man), first appeared around 3,00,000 years ago in Africa. It is believed that these modern humans eventually migrated and dispersed into various parts of the world from around 60,000 years ago.

## Prehistoric Cultures

Prehistoric period does not have evidence of writing. While the fossil bones are classified as various species such as *Homo habilis*, *Homo erectus* and *Neanderthalensis*,

based on the lithic tools, cultures are assigned names such as Earliest Lithic Assemblages, Oldowan Technology, Lower, Middle and Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic cultures.



## Earliest Lithic Assemblages of Human Ancestors

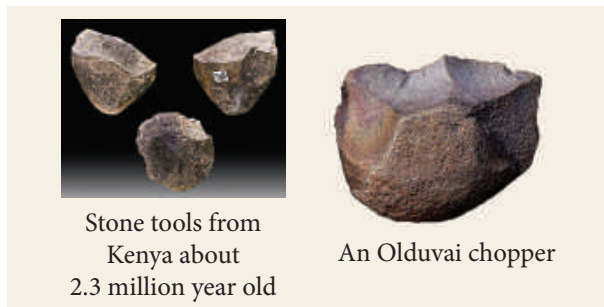
The earliest tools made by human ancestors are found in Lomekwi in Kenya. They are dated to 3.3 million years. Oldowan tools occur in the Olduvai gorge in Africa. They are 2 to 2.6 million years old. The human ancestors (*Australopithecines*) used hammer stones and produced sharp-edged flakes. The tools were used for cutting, slicing and processing food.

## Lower Paleolithic Culture

The Lower Paleolithic Culture is marked by the human ancestors belonging to the species *Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus*. The human ancestors flaked large stone blocks and designed various tools including hand axes. These tools, which are found in Africa, Asia, and Europe, are dated the earliest to about 1.8 million years ago. They made various tools such as hand axes and cleavers to meet their subsistence needs. These tools are also known as bifaces. These tools have physical symmetry and convey the humans' cognitive (perception) skills. This culture is called the Lower Paleolithic Culture. The hand axe tools are also known as Acheulian. This tool-making tradition continued till 250,000 years to 60,000 years ago in India.

**Acheulian** – They were first hand axes recognized at a place called St. Acheul in France. Hence they are called Acheulian tools.

**Bifaces** are tools that have flaking on both sides (bi = two, face = side).



**Subsistence necessities** of prehistoric humans were mainly food and water.

The human ancestors perhaps did not possess complex language skills as we have now. They might have voiced a few sounds or words and possibly used sign language. They were intelligent enough to select stones as **raw material** and used the **hammer stones** to carefully flake the rocks and design tools for their needs. They hunted animals, fed on the meat of the animals killed by predators and gathered plant foods such as roots, nuts and fruits. In India, the Acheulian tools have been found near Chennai and many other sites such as Isampur in Karnataka and Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh.

Raw material is the naturally available stone block or pebbles selected by humans for making tools. Since these stones produced flakes with sharp edges, they were selected for making stone tools.

**Core** is the main block of stone from which small chips are flaked by using a hammer stone.

**Flake** is a small chip removed from a large stone block called the core.

## Middle Paleolithic Culture

After about 3,98,000 years BC (BCE), further changes took place in the **lithic technology** in Africa. The *Homo erectus* species existed during this period. Anatomically modern humans are said to have emerged around 3 lakh years ago.

**Lithic Technology:** 'Lith' means stone. The methods and techniques involved in the

production of stone tools are called Lithic technology.

The hand axes turned out to be much attractive in design and many smaller tools were also produced. The core was prepared and then tools were made. Points and scrapers were used. Short blades were also produced. The lithic tool-making tradition of the **Levalloisian** belonged to this period. The tools made during this time are found in Europe and Central and western Asia.

**Levalloisian** tools are the implements made after preparing the core. It was named after the town of Levallois in France.

The Middle Paleolithic Culture appeared between 3,85,000 and 1,98,000 years BC (BCE) ago in Europe and parts of western and South Asia. The tools that were made during this period were in use till about 28,000 BC (BCE).

The people of this period were called Neanderthals. They buried the dead people systematically. Perhaps they were the first human ancestors to mourn death properly and bury the dead.

## Upper Paleolithic Culture

The cultural phase that succeeded the Middle Paleolithic is called the Upper Paleolithic phase. This period was marked by innovation in tool technology. Long blades and burins were produced during this time. People used different varieties of silica-rich raw materials in this phase. Numerous paintings and art objects were made. The diversity of artefacts suggests the improvement in cognitive skills and the development of languages. Microliths appeared in this phase.

**Burin** is a stone-made chisel with a sharp cutting edge.

The modern humans, who first appeared as a result of human evolution in the sub-Saharan Africa 300,000 years ago, began to move to various parts of Asia around 60,000



Hand axe -  
London Museum



Flint biface from  
Saint-Acheul, France



A cleaver



Middle Paleolithic  
flakes and tools India



Omo Kibish point

years ago. They probably replaced the earlier populations. In Europe, humans known as Cro-Magnons lived in this period.

Horns and ivory were used for making tools and art works. Bone needles, fishhooks, harpoons and spears were also employed creatively. The humans of this time wore clothes and cooked food. The dead were placed in the burials with folded hands placed over their chest. Pendants and richly carved tools were also seen in use. Evidences from paintings, clay model sculptures and carvings are available. Images of Goddess Venus made up of stones and bones in Europe and in some parts of Asia.

**Ice Age** – the period before 8,000 BC (BCE) when many parts of the world remained covered by ice sheets and snow.



Lascaux – Rock painting from  
west France – 17000 years old

## Mesolithic Culture

Mesolithic period is known as the Middle Stone Age, as it is placed between the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods. People mainly used microlithic (small stone) tools

during this period. These people were hunter-gatherers. With the global warming occurring after the Ice Age, they became highly mobile and occupied various eco-zones.

People of Mesolithic period widely employed microlithic technology. They made tiny artefacts that were less than 5 cm in size. They produced points, scrapers and arrowheads. They also used geometric tools such as lunates, triangles and trapezes. These tools were hafted onto wooden or bone handles and used.

**Microliths** are stone artefacts of small size.



Rock paintings from Bhimbetka

## Neolithic Culture and the Beginning of Agriculture

The period called Neolithic marks the beginning of agriculture and animal domestication. It is an important phase in history. Early evidence of the Neolithic period is found in the fertile crescent region of Egypt and Mesopotamia, the Indus region, the



Gangetic valley and in China. By about 10,000 BC (BCE) to 5000 BC (BCE), agriculture had come to be practised in these regions.



Wheat, barley and peas were cultivated around 10,000 years ago. Fruit and nut trees were cultivated around 4,000 BC (BCE). They comprised olives, figs, dates, pomegranates and grapes.

**Fertile Crescent Region** refers to the area covering Egypt, Israel-Palestine and Iraq, which is in the shape of crescent moon.

Neolithic Age is called the 'new age', because of the new grinding and polishing techniques used for the tools. The Neolithic people also used the flaked stone tools. Until the Mesolithic period, people mainly hunted and gathered food for their subsistence. By hunting and gathering people obtained very limited food as a result of which only a small number of people could exist in a particular region.

The introduction of domestication of animals and cultivating plants at home led to production and supply of large quantities of grains and animal food. The fertile soil deposited by the river on its banks helped the growth of agriculture. People preferred to live on river banks as it was better for adaptation. As a result of domestication and cultivating plants, there was an excess food production. The surplus food production was a main factor for the development of early civilisations. Permanent residences were built and large villages emerged as a result. Hence, the development of this period is called Neolithic Revolution.

## 1.4 Prehistoric Tamilagam

### Lower Paleolithic Culture in Tamil Nadu

One of the oldest Stone Age tools in the world made by human ancestors, called

**hominins**, had been produced in Tamil Nadu. These stone tools are found near the Chennai region at several sites, especially at Athirampakkam. The **archaeological excavations** at this site and **cosmic-ray exposure dating** of the artefacts suggest that people lived here about 1.5 to 2 million years ago. The Kosasthalaiyar river is one of the major cradles of human ancestors in the world. The people who lived here belonged to the species of *Homo erectus*.

**Archaeological excavation** refers to digging undertaken to recover archaeological evidence such as stone tools, pottery, animal bones and pollens, in order to understand the past lifestyle of humans.

**Cosmic-ray exposure dating** – A method in which exposure to cosmogenic rays is done for dating the samples.

In 1863, Sir Robert Bruce Foote, a geologist from England, first discovered Paleolithic tools at Pallavaram near Chennai. They are the earliest finds of such tools in India. Hence, the hand axe assemblages were considered the **Madras Stone Tool Industry**. The tools that he discovered are now housed in the Chennai Museum.

The Paleolithic people hunted wild animals and gathered the naturally available fruits, roots, nuts and leaves. They did not have knowledge of iron and pottery making, which developed much later in history.

Hand axes and cleavers are the important tool types of the Lower Paleolithic period. These tools fitted with a wooden and bone handle were used for cutting, piercing and digging. The people of this time also used hammer stones and spheroids. The quartzite pebbles and cobbles were chosen as raw materials. The tools are found in the soil deposits and also in the exposed river side. They occur at Pallavaram, Gudiyam cave, Athirampakkam, Vadamadurai, Erumaivettipalayam and Parikulam.



The Lower Paleolithic tools are also found in the North Arcot and Dharmapuri districts. The people belonging to this period used **basalt rocks** for manufacturing artefacts. However, the southern part of Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka do not have evidence of Lower Paleolithic Culture.

**Basalt rocks are igneous rocks:** Igneous rocks are those formed from the molten lava from the earth.

The Lower Paleolithic Culture is datable to about 2 - 1.5 million years at Athirampakkam. This cultural phase continued in other parts of India up to 300,000 years ago.

### Middle Paleolithic Culture in Tamil Nadu

In the course of time, the **Middle Paleolithic Culture** emerged during 3,85,000 - 1,72,000 years ago. The tool types of this period underwent a change and smaller artefacts were used. Cores, flakes, scrapers, knives, borers, Levalloisian flakes, hand axes and cleavers are the artefact types of this period. Compared to the previous phase, these tool types became smaller in size.

Evidence for the Middle Paleolithic Culture can be observed in some parts of Tamil Nadu. In the southern part of Tamil Nadu, at T. Pudupatti and Sivarakkottai, artefacts of the Middle Paleolithic tools have been collected. Also near Thanjavur and Ariyalur, similar artefacts have been found.

### Mesolithic Culture in Tamil Nadu

In many parts of the world, and in some parts of India, the Upper Paleolithic Culture succeeded the Middle Paleolithic Culture. There is no evidence for the Upper Paleolithic Culture in Tamil Nadu. But the people who used **microliths** or small-stone artefacts lived in many parts of Tamil Nadu. Athirampakkam and Gudiyam Cave yielded both Early and Middle Paleolithic artefacts. Since this cultural period occurs between

Paleolithic and Neolithic Culture, it is known as Mesolithic Culture or Middle Stone Age.



Microlithic flakes from  
Tamil Nadu

Evidence for the existence of Mesolithic hunter-gatherers is found at Chennai, North Arcot, Dharmapuri, Salem, Coimbatore, Ariyalur, Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Madurai, Sivagangai, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari. The teri sites near Thoothukudi have evidence of microlithic artefacts. These sites have red sand dunes called **teris**.

The people of this period used small artefacts made of **chert** and **quartz**. The tool types are **scrapers**, **lunates** and **triangles**. These people hunted wild animals and gathered fruits, nuts and roots for their **subsistence**.

**Scrapers** are tools used for scraping the surfaces. Scrapers are similar to the tools used in the kitchen for removing skin of vegetables.

**Triangles** are tools in the shape of triangles.

**Lunates** are tools in the shape of a crescent.

### Neolithic Culture in Tamil Nadu

The culture that domesticated animals and cultivated crops is called Neolithic. It is known as the New Stone Age. The Neolithic people used polished stone axes called celts. Cattle rearing was their main occupation. They lived in small villages with houses made of thatched roof and walls plastered with



Timeline: The Course of Cultures in Ancient Tamilagam		
Culture	Time Period	Cultural Traits
Paleolithic Period	Circa. 20,00,000 years to circa. 8,000 BC (BCE)	Hand axes, cleavers Hunting and gathering
Mesolithic Period	Circa. 8,000 years to circa. 1,300 BC (BCE)	Microlithic tools No knowledge of metal Hunting of animals and birds Gathering of plant food
Neolithic Period	Circa. 2,000 BC (BCE) to 1,000 BC (BCE)	Polished Stone Axes Microliths Domestication of animals Cultivation of crops Multiplicity of groups Co-existence of hunter-gatherers and pastoral groups
Iron Age	Circa. 1,300 BC (BCE) to 500 BC (BCE)	Megalithic burial custom Co-existence of hunter-gatherers and pastoral groups Development of chieftdom Knowledge of iron, black and red ware, black ware ceramics Craft specialisation, specialised groups: potters, blacksmiths
Early Historic and Sangam Age	300 BC (BCE) to 300 AD (CE)	Cultural traits of Iron age Monarchies of Chera, Chola and Pandya Development of hero worship Poetic traditions and literature Trade and exchange by sea

clay. Evidence of Neolithic village is found at Payyampalli in Vellore district and a few sites in the Dharmapuri region.



Neolithic people perhaps devised the first pottery. They made pottery, using a slow wheel called turn-table or made pottery out of hand. Before firing, the pottery was polished with pebbles. This process is known as burnishing.

Payyampalli is a village in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu. The earliest evidence for the domestication of animals and cultivation of plants is found at this site, which was excavated by the Archaeological Survey

of India. Evidence for pottery making and cultivation of horse gram and green gram has been found in this village.

### Iron Age/Megalithic period

The **cultural period** that succeeded the Neolithic is called the Iron Age. As the name suggests, people used iron technology. It preceded the Sangam Age. The Iron Age was a formative period and the foundation for the Sangam Age was laid in this time. During the Iron Age, many parts of Tamil Nadu were occupied by people. An exchange relationship developed among the people.

The people of this age had knowledge of metallurgy and pottery making. They used iron and bronze objects and gold ornaments.





## Lemuria and the Tamils

Some researchers relate the origin of the Tamils to the submerged continent of Lemuria. This theory of Lemuria continent was proposed in the 19th century. In the wake of advancements in plate tectonics theory, differing views are put forth by scholars.

The available literary references point to the submergence of areas around Kanyakumari. Some parts of Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu were connected by land about 5000 years BC (BCE). It is possible that some land might have submerged near Kanyakumari and around the coast of India, because of the rising sea levels. Underwater surveys are necessary in this area.

Archaeological research reveals that at least a section of people may have been living continuously in South India, including Tamil Nadu, from the Mesolithic and Neolithic times.

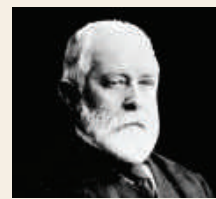
They used shell ornaments and beads made of carnelian and quartz. The evidence for Iron Age is found at many sites including Adhichanallur in Thoothukudi district, Sanur near Madhuranthakam and Sithannavasal near Pudukkottai. Megalithic burial sites are found in the whole of Tamil Nadu.

## Megalithic Burial Types

The Iron Age is also known as megalithic, since people created burials with large stones for the dead people. Within these burials, the skeletons or a few bones of the dead persons were placed along with grave goods including iron objects, carnelian beads and bronze objects. Some of the burials do not have human bones and they have only the grave goods. They may be called memorial burials.

**Grave goods** are the objects placed in the burials along with the physical remains (bones) of the dead. People may have believed that these would be useful in the after-life. Egyptian pyramids also have similar artefacts.

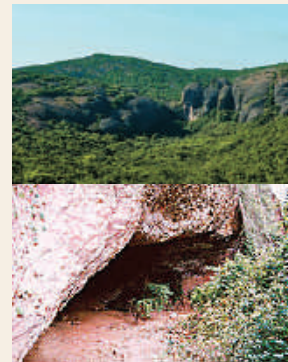
Similar burials were also built in the early historic period or the Sangam Age. The Sangam literature mentions the various burial practices of the people. The megalithic burials are classified as dolmens, cists, menhirs, rock-cut caves, urn burials and sarcophagus. The burial types of Kodakkal (umbrella stone), Toppikkal (hatstone) and Paththikal (hoodstone) are found in Kerala.



Sir Robert Bruce Foote discovered the first Paleolithic tools in India at Pallavaram



Tools discovered by Robert Bruce Foote



Gudiyaam Cave near Chennai

Dolmens, table-like stone structures, were erected as funerary monuments. Cists are stone enclosures buried under the earth. They were created by placing four stone slabs on the sides, one on top of each other. The cists and dolmens have openings called portholes. Urns are pottery jars and were used for burying the dead. Sarcophagi are burial receptacles made of terracotta. They sometimes had multiple legs. Menhirs are pillar-like stones erected as part of the burials or memorials.

**Portholes** are holes found in the cists and dolmens on one side. They may have acted as the entrance to the burials. There is a view that they were meant for the movement of the soul or spirit.



A Menhir



An urn covered with lids  
in Adhichanallur



A stone circle with Menhir  
and the capstone



Sarcophagus



Dolmen



Cist, Kodumanal



Kodakkal, Kerala



Toppikkal, Kerala



Paththikal, Kerala

The menhirs may have been erected for the heroes in the Iron Age. The tradition of hero stones might have begun in the Iron Age or even before.

### Agriculture and Pastoralism

The people in the Iron Age practiced agriculture, domesticated cattle and sheep, and some of the groups were still hunting and gathering. Millets and rice were cultivated. Irrigation management developed in this period, since many of the megalithic sites are found nearby rivers and tanks. In the deltaic regions, irrigation as a technology had developed. Evidence of rice is seen in the megalithic sites like Adhichanallur in Thoothukudi district and Porunthal near Palani.

### Iron Age Society and Polity

The Iron Age society had farming communities, pastoralists and hunter-

gatherers. Craft specialists, potters and blacksmiths were the professionals during this period. The society had several groups of peoples (tribes). The size of the burials and the variations found in the burial goods suggests the existence of numerous social groups and their diverse practices. Some of them seem to have had organised chiefdoms. Cattle lifting leading to wars and encroachment and expansion of territories had also started taking place in this period.

### Pottery

Pottery is an important evidence found in the archaeological sites. The Iron Age and Sangam age people used the black and red colours to make black ware and red ware pottery. Potteries were used for cooking, storage and dining purposes. The black and red ware pottery has a black inside and a red outside, with lustrous surfaces.



Black and Red ware in Adhichanallur.



(a) Iron sword and dagger in Adhichanallur  
(b) Bronze vessel from a Burial at Auroville, Puducherry

## Iron Technology and Metal Tools

The megalithic burials have abundant iron objects placed in the burials as grave goods. Weapons such as swords and daggers, axes, chisels, lamps and tripod stands are also found. Some of these objects were hafted to wooden or bone or horn handles and used. The iron tools were used for agriculture, hunting, gathering and in battles. Bronze bowls, vessels with stylish finials decorated with animals and birds, bronze mirrors and bells have also been found.

made pottery and with the surplus production, they developed various crafts.

- The earliest evidence of humans is available in Tamil Nadu around 2-1.5 million years ago.
- The Middle Paleolithic Culture is found in some parts of Tamil Nadu.
- The Mesolithic people lived in all the areas of Tamil Nadu.
- Iron tools were used in agriculture.
- The Iron Age saw further expansion of people in various cultural zones. The foundation of subsequent Sangam Age was laid during this age.

### Recap

- The history of humans is intimately linked with the history of the earth. The earth originated around 4.54 billion years ago.
- The ancestors of human called hominins appeared about 5-7 million years ago.
- Although people gave divine explanations for the origin of humans, science believes in the theory of human evolution from the great apes.
- Humans began to domesticate animals and cultivate crops. The agricultural revolution led to many changes. Humans lived in permanent houses,



### EXERCISE



#### I. Choose the correct answer

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is genetically closest to humans
- (a) Gorilla (b) Chimpanzee  
(c) Orang-utan (d) Great Apes



2. The period called \_\_\_\_\_ marks the beginning of agriculture and animal domestication.

- (a) Paleolithic (b) Mesolithic  
(c) Neolithic (d) Megalithic

3. Direct ancestor of modern man was \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Homo habilis (b) Homo erectus  
(c) Homo sapiens (d) Neanderthal man

4. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the area covering Egypt, Israel-Palestine and Iraq.

- (a) Great Rift Valley  
(b) Fertile Crescent  
(c) Solo river  
(d) Neander Valley

5. Sir Robert Bruce Foote, a geologist from England first discovered the \_\_\_\_\_ tools at Pallavaram near Chennai.

- (a) Stone Age (b) Paleolithic  
(c) Mesolithic (d) Neolithic

6. (i) The period before the introduction of writing is called pre-history.

(ii) The pre-historic people developed language, made beautiful paintings and artefacts.

(iii) The pre-historic societies are treated as literate.

(iv) The pre-historic period is called ancient.

- a. (i) is correct  
b. (i) and (ii) are correct  
c. (i) and (iv) are correct  
d. (ii) and (iii) are correct

7. (i) The Neolithic people used polished stone axes called Celts

(ii) Evidence of Neolithic village is found at Payyampalli in Chennai district

(iii) The cultural period that succeeded the Neolithic is called the Bronze Age

(iv) The period that witnessed domestication of animals and cultivation of crops is called Mesolithic

- a) (i) is correct  
b) (ii) is correct  
c) (ii) and (iii) are correct  
d) (iv) is correct

8. **Assertion (A):** Many of the Mesolithic sites are founds nearby rivers and tanks.

**Reason (R):** Irrigation management developed during Mesolithic period.

- a) A and R are correct and R explains A  
b) A and R are correct but R doesn't explain A  
c) A is correct but R is incorrect  
d) A and R both are incorrect

## II. Fill in the blanks

1. Hand axes and cleavers are the important tool types of the \_\_\_\_\_ culture.
2. The methods and techniques involved in the production of stone tools are called \_\_\_\_\_ technology.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is known as the Middle Stone Age, as it is placed between the Paleolithic and Neolithic.

## III. Find out the correct statement

1. a) The concept 'survival of the fittest' contributed to the scientific understanding of human origins.  
b) The book "On the Origin of Species" was published by Herbert Spencer.  
c) Darwin's theory of biological evolution connects with the process of natural selection.  
d) Geology is the study of lithic technology.



2. a) Among the great Apes Orang utan is genetically the closest to humans.
- b) The ancestors to humans were called Hominins and their origins have been traced to Africa.
- c) Flake is a small chip that has flaking on both sides.
- d) Acheulian is the main block of stone from which small chips are flaked by using a hammer stone.

#### IV. Match the following

- |                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Palaeo anthropology           | - Teris                            |
| 2. Hand axe tools                | - Venus                            |
| 3. Images on stone and bone      | - Acheulian                        |
| 4. Red sand dunes                | - Microliths                       |
| 5. Stone artefacts of small size | - The study of the human ancestors |

#### V. Answer the following briefly

1. Discuss how the age of speculation made humans become conscious and knowledgeable.
2. Write a note on the impact of pastoralism on the prehistoric people in Tamil Nadu.
3. List out the features of Megalithic Burial types.
4. Examine the tool making technical skills of lower Paleolithic people.

#### VI. Answer all the questions given under each caption

1. Hominid and Hominins
  - a) Who are Hominids?
  - b) Who was the earliest human ancestor to make tools in Africa?
  - c) How are the modern humans known?
  - d) Name any one species of this tribe

#### 2. Earliest Lithic Assemblages of Human ancestors

- a) Where are Acheulian tools are reported to have been found in Karnataka and in Madhya Pradesh?
- b) What is Burin?
- c) What are Biface tools?
- d) Name a few stone tools used by the human ancestors.

#### VII. Answer the following in detail

1. The developments in the fields of agriculture, pottery and metal tools are considered a landmark in the life of Megalithic period-Substantiate.
2. The history of humans is closely related to the history of the earth. Elucidate.

### FUN WITH HISTORY

#### Student Activities

Mark the prehistoric sites on the world map

Organize an exhibition on the pre-historic sites of Tamil Nadu

#### Assignment with teacher's guidance

A power-point presentation on the origin of human life

A power-point presentation on the pre-historic tools

A power-point presentation on the scripts of the ancient period



## REFERENCE BOOKS

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2. K.Rajan, *Iron Age-Early Historic Transition in South India: An Appraisal*. Padmashri Amalananda Ghosh Memorial Lecture, New Delhi: Institute of Archaeology.
3. Ralph, Burns and others. *World Civilizations (Vol. 1)*.



## INTERNET RESOURCES



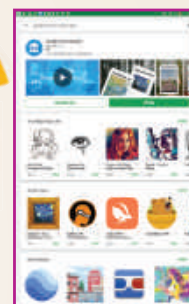
### ICT CORNER

#### Explore Pre-Historic Objects in Museums

##### Steps

- Scan the QR code and install the app.
- You can see three bars at the left side of the screen. Click them.
- When we click on 'collections', you can find world famous Museums. Select 'British Museum' Take a tour by clicking the yellow man icon. Click on 'Collections' to view the images of various objects in the Museum with high resolution and at the relevant ages.
- Click on the 'clock' to watch the timeline.

##### Back in Time



## UNIT

# 2

# Ancient Civilisations

## Learning Objectives

- To learn about early societies and state formations
- To understand the development of civilisations
- To learn about the ancient Egyptian civilisation
- To study the main features of the Mesopotamian civilisations
- To know the Chinese civilisation
- To gain knowledge about the Indus civilisation



## Introduction

Societies that adopted complex ways of life were more organised than the early hunter-gatherer and Neolithic farming societies. Urban societies had social stratification and well-planned cities. They practised crafts, engaged in trade and exchange, adopted science and technology and formed political organisation (early form of state). Hence the term 'civilisation' is used to distinguish them from the early forms of societies. However, they should not be considered superior to other forms of societies, since each culture or civilisation had its own unique features.

### 2.1 Ancient Civilisations

Civilisation is seen as an advanced, organised way of life. It instilled a way of life that could be considered as an adaptation to particular environmental and cultural contexts. When it became necessary for large numbers of people to live in close proximity, they brought in planning, organisation and specialisation. Settlements were planned and laid out, a polity emerged, society became organised and food production and craft production were regulated. As civilisations began to take

shape, huge buildings were built, the art of writing developed and science and technology contributed to the betterment of society.

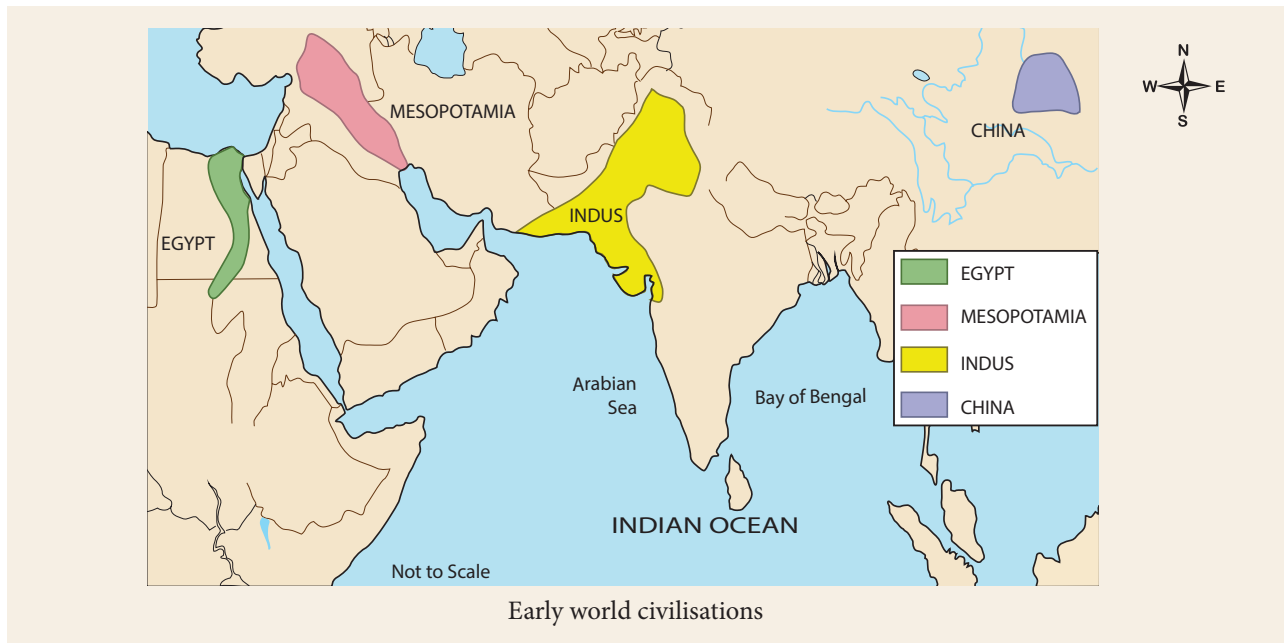
The Egyptian, the Mesopotamian, the Chinese and the Indus were the important early civilisations. While these civilisations flourished in certain regions, people in other parts of the world lived as hunters-gatherers and pastoralists. The hunters-gatherers and pastoralists maintained their relationships with these civilisations through interactions. Their history is also equally important. During the time of these civilisations, South India witnessed the emergence of Neolithic agro-pastoral communities and Microlithic form of life by hunter-gatherers.

### 2.2 The Egyptian Civilisation

As one of the oldest civilisations, the Egyptian civilisation is known for its monumental architecture, agriculture, arts, sciences and crafts at a very early age.

#### Geography

Egypt lies in the north-eastern corner of the African continent. It is bounded by the Red Sea on the east and Mediterranean Sea in the north. Egypt is irrigated by the River Nile,



which originates in Lake Victoria in the south and flows into the Mediterranean Sea in the north. Deserts are seen on both sides of the Nile River. The Egyptian civilisation depended solely upon the flow of Nile River, and hence Egypt was called the Gift of Nile by the Greek historian Herodotus. The Nile also served as a means of transport. The Nile valley is very rich and fertile as the river deposits fresh alluvium every year. This alluvium nurtured agriculture and helped to produce surplus of food grains, leading to the development of Egyptian civilisation. The dry regions on both the sides of the Niles, however remained deserts.

Egypt became intimately connected with the Sangam Age Tamilagam by the sea route.

**The Hyksos** were the rulers of the 15<sup>th</sup> dynasty of Egypt and they were probably from West Asia.

**Persians** are the people from the region of Persia, the ancient Iran.

**Greek** refers to the language and people of modern-day State of Greece in Europe.

**Rome** refers to the ancient Roman Empire, which had as its capital the city of Rome in Italy.

## Pharaohs, Society and Administration

The Egyptian king was known as the Pharaoh. The people treated pharaoh as a divine

form. Under the pharaoh, there was a hierarchy of officials including viziers, the governors of provinces, local mayors and tax collectors. The entire social system was supported by the work and production of artisans including stone cutters, masons, potters, carpenters, coppersmiths and goldsmiths, peasants and workers. Land belonged to the king and was assigned to the officials. Slavery was not common, but captives were used as slaves.

**Viziers** were the high officials who administered territories under the direction of the Pharaohs.

The Egyptians believed in life after death. Therefore, they preserved the dead body. The art of preserving the dead body is known as mummification. Pyramids and tombs were built to preserve the body of pharaohs.

The famous Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen's (who ruled from 1332 to 1322 BC (BCE)) tomb with a rich variety of offerings is located near Luxor in Egypt. The mask of his mummy made of gold and decorated with precious stones is an important artefact of the Egyptian civilisation.

## Agriculture and Trade

The Egyptians cultivated wheat, barley, millets, vegetables, fruits, papyrus and cotton.



The cities of Egyptian civilisation

Papyrus was used for making rope mats sandals and later for producing paper. They domesticated cattle, sheep, goat and pigs, and hunted wild animals. They had pets such as dogs, cats and monkeys. The Egyptians had trade relations with Lebanon, Crete, Phoenicia, Palestine and Syria. Gold, silver and ivory were imported, and they acquired the Lapis Lazuli, a precious stone of bluish colour, from Afghanistan.



The mask of Tutankhamen

The mummified body of Tutankhamen

## Mummies of Egypt

The preserved dead body is called the mummy. The Egyptians had the tradition of preserving the dead bodies using Natron salt, a combination of sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate. The preservation process is called mummification. After 40 days, when the salt absorbed all the moisture, the body was filled with sawdust and wrapped with strips of linen cloth and covered with a fabric. The body was stored in a stone coffin called sarcophagus.



A ploughing farmer, 1200 BC (BCE)



Depiction of grain harvest

## Art and Architecture

The Egyptians excelled in art and architecture. Their writing is also a form of art. Numerous sculptures, painting and carvings attest to the artistic skills of the Egyptians.

The pyramids are massive monuments built as tombs of mourning to the Pharaohs. The great pyramids near Cairo are known as the Giza Pyramids.

**The Great Sphinx of Giza** is a massive limestone image of a lion with a human head. It is dated to the time of Pharaoh Khafre. It is one of the largest sculptures of the world and measures seventy three metres in length and twenty metres in height.



The Great Pyramid of Giza



View of the Sphinx with the Great Pyramid, Egypt

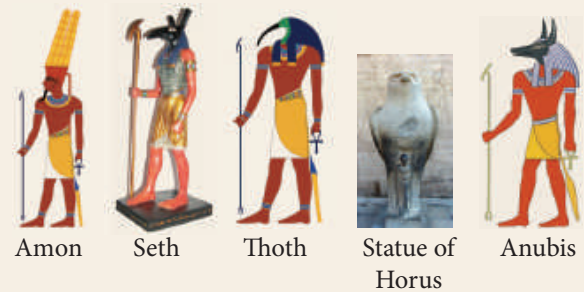
## Religion

The Egyptians practiced polytheism. Amon, Re, Seth, Thoth, Horus and Anubis are some of the Gods of Egyptians. They worshipped many Gods, but the Sun God, Re, was the predominant one. Later on, the Sun God was called Amon.

## Philosophy, Science and Literature

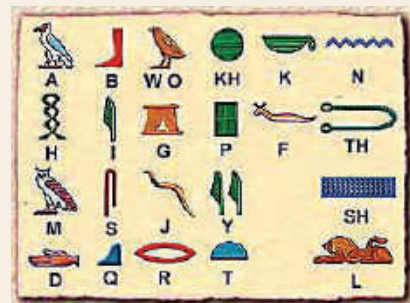
The Egyptian civilisation excelled in science, literature, philosophy, astronomy, mathematics and the measurement system. Sundial, water clock and glass were developed by the Egyptians. They devised a solar calendar that consisted of twelve months of thirty days each, with five days added to the end of a year. This calendar was introduced as early as 4200 BC (BCE). Literary works included treatises on mathematics, astronomy, medicine, magic and religion. The Egyptians also distinguished themselves in painting, art, sculpture, pottery, music and weaving.

## Ancient Egyptian Gods



## Writing System

The Egyptians are well known for their writing system. Their form of writing is known as hieroglyphic. Hieroglyphic was used in the inscriptions on seals and other objects. The hieratic, another form of writing, was used for common purposes. This form of writing used a pictogram-based system. It was developed around 3000 BC (BCE) and many texts and books were written using this script. Now this inscription is on display in the British Museum, London.



Hieroglyphic script on a Rosetta stone

## Characteristics and Contributions of the Egyptian Civilisation

- The Egyptians developed a solar calendar system.
- The pyramids and their designs show their mathematical and surveying skills.
- Hieroglyphic writing system attests to their skills in handling symbols.
- Preservation of human body in the form of Mummies.
- They applied innovation in the use of science and technology.



The word 'paper' comes from 'Papyrus'. The Egyptians wrote on the leaves of a plant called papyrus, a kind of reed, which grew on the banks of Nile.

## 2.3 The Mesopotamian Civilisations

Mesopotamia refers to the region of Iraq and Kuwait in West Asia. Several kingdoms emerged around the city states of this region from the early third millennium BC (BCE). The Sumerian, Akkadian, Babylonian and Assyrian civilisations flourished in Mesopotamia.

### Geography

In the Greek language, *meso* means 'in between' and *potamus* means river. The Euphrates and Tigris flow here and drain into the Persian Gulf is since this area is in between two rivers it is known as Mesopotamia. The northern part of Mesopotamia is known as Assyria, and the southern part is called Babylonia.

### The Sumerians

The oldest civilisation in Mesopotamia belonged to the Sumerians. The Sumerians were the contemporaries of the people of Indus and the Egyptian civilisations. These civilisations had

trade connections. The Sumerians settled in the Lower Tigris valley around 5,000 to 4,000 BC (BCE). They were believed to have originated from Central Asia. They founded many cities and Nippur was one of the important cities. They developed the cuneiform writing system. During the early phase of the Sumerian civilisation, Kings acted as the chief priests. Their political domination came to an end by 2,450 BC (BCE).

### The Akkadians

The Akkadians dominated Sumeria briefly from 2450 to 2250 BC (BCE). The Sargon of Akkad was a famous ruler. The Sargon and his descendants (ca.2334–2218 BC (BCE)) ruled Mesopotamia for more than hundred years. In the cuneiform records of Akkadians, mention is made about the Indus civilisation. The documents of the Sargon of Akkad (2334–2279 BC (BCE)) refer to the ships from Meluhha, Magan and Dilmun in the quay of Akkad.



The city of Akkad later became the city of Babylon, a commercial and cultural centre of West Asia.

### The Babylonians

The Semitic people called Amorites from the Arabian desert moved into Mesopotamia. They were known as the Babylonians as they

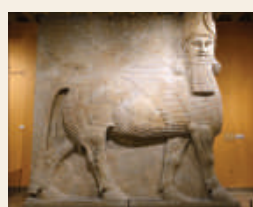


Map of ancient lands of Magan, Dilmun and Meluhha

established a kingdom and made Babylon its capital. By the time of the king Hammurabi, they extended their domination to the western part of Mesopotamia. The powerful states of Ur (2112 to 2004 BC (BCE)) and Babylon (1792 to 1712 BC (BCE)) controlled this region. The hero Gilgamesh referred to in the first ever epic on the earth may have been a king of Sumeria. Hammurabi, the sixth king of Babylon belonging to the first Amorite dynasty (1792–1750 BC (BCE)), attained fame as a great law-maker.

## The Assyrians

The Assyrian Empire was politically active in Mesopotamia around 1000 BC (BCE). The Assyrian kings were the priests of Ashur, the chief deity of Assyria. The Assyrian government was controlled by the emperor and provincial governors were appointed by the emperor to administer provinces. Assur was the capital city of Assyria. Ashurbanipal was a popular ruler of the late or neo-Assyrian empire (ca. 668 to 627 BC (BCE)). He maintained a famous library of cuneiform records. The Assyrians worshipped the deity of Lamassu for protection.



A stone image of Lamassu

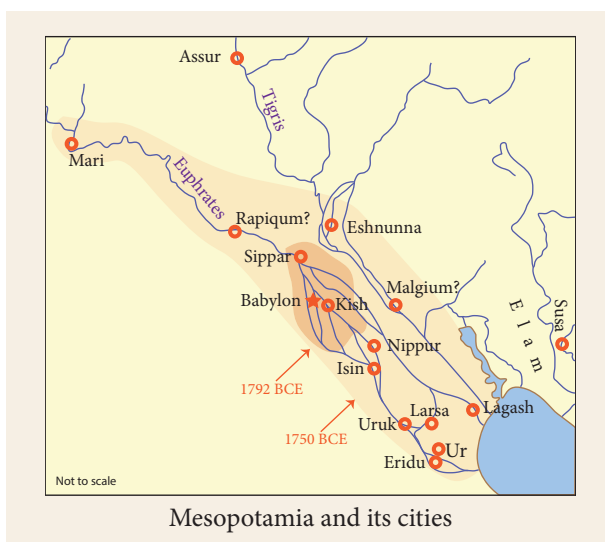
by cultivable lands. The fortified Sumerian cities had the temples called Ziggurats at its centre. The temple was controlled by the priests. Priests, scribes and nobles were part of the government. The rulers and priests occupied the top of the social hierarchy. The ruler performed the role of the chief priest. The scribes, merchants and artisans were placed next in the hierarchy. The scribes maintained the account of the taxes and the priests collected the taxes. The temples acted as storehouses of the taxed commodities. Assemblies were created for the administration of the state. Cultivable lands were owned by the kings and the higher classes of people in the hierarchy. The peasants who remained to the temples in the earlier phase of Mesopotamian civilisation, became free from that association in the later period. Not all people were allowed to live in the cities.



Ziggurat of Ur



The Assyrian Empire was the first military State in history. They emerged militarily powerful because they were the earliest to use iron technology effectively.



Mesopotamia and its cities

## Food and Agriculture

Agriculture was the main occupation of the Mesopotamians. They had developed irrigation systems for ensuring the availability of water for agriculture and cultivated wheat, barley, onions, turnips, grapes, apples and dates. They domesticated cattle, sheep and goats. Fish was part of their diet.

## Trade and Exchange

Trade was an important economic activity of the Mesopotamian society. Traders assisted in the exchange of goods procured from the potters and artisans. They traded with Syria

## Society, State and Administration

The Sumerian civilisation had many city states. A typical Sumerian city was surrounded



and Asia Minor in the West, and in Iran and the Indus Valley civilisation in the east. They travelled in ships across the seas for trade. Their temples acted as banks and lent credit on their own account. The Mesopotamian documents have references to loan and repayment, with or without interest. Perhaps this is the first written evidence of charging an interest on borrowed money.

### Cities and Town Planning

The Mesopotamian cities featured mud or baked brick walls with gates. Some people lived in reed huts outside the cities. The Ziggurats were at the city centre on a platform and appeared like steep pyramids, with staircases leading to the top. Around this temple were complexes of ceremonial courtyards, shrines, burial chambers for the priests and priestesses, ceremonial banquet halls, along with workshops, granaries, storehouses and administrative buildings.

### Religion

The Sumerian religion was polytheistic. They worshipped several Gods and Goddesses. The Sumerians prayed to Enlil, the God of sky and wind. The city of Nippur was centre of Enlil's worship. Ninlil was the Sumerian Goddess of grain. The Babylonians worshipped Marduk, and Ashur was the supreme God of the Assyrians. Ishtar was Goddess of love and fertility, Tiamat the God of the sea and chaos, and Sin, the moon God. The kings were seen as representatives of the Gods on earth. The Mesopotamians developed a rich collection of myths and legends. The most famous of these is the epic of Gilgamesh, which is written in the cuneiform text. It contains a legend of the flood and has similarities with the account of Noah's Ark mentioned in the Bible and other myths in the Hindu *puranas*.

### The Hammurabi's Law Code

The Hammurabi Code is an important legal document that specifies the laws related to various crimes. It has 282 provisions specifying cases related to family rights, trade, slavery, taxes and wages. It is carved on a stone, which

portrays Hammurabi as receiving the code from the Sun God Shamash. It was a compilation of old laws based on retributive principles. 'An eye for an eye' and 'a tooth for a tooth' form of justice is used in the Hammurabi Code.



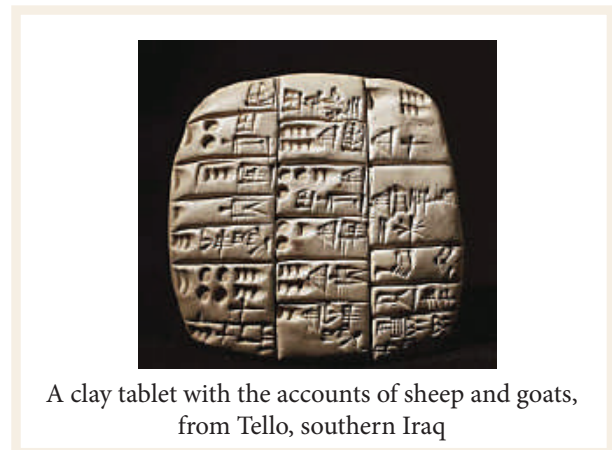
Cuneiform tablet

### Cuneiform: The Sumerian Writing System

Cuneiform is the Sumerian writing system. The shape of the letter is in the form of wedge and hence it is called cuneiform. Evolving around 3000 BC (BCE), it is one of the earliest scripts of the world. They used this script for commercial transactions and writing letters and stories. The clay tablets contain loads of information on the Sumerian civilisation.

### Art

The Mesopotamian art included sculptures in stone and clay. A few paintings and sculptures from the Mesopotamian times have survived today. Mesopotamian sculptures portray animals, such as goats, rams, bulls and lions. Some mythological figures like lions and bulls with human head have also been found in their art. Massive sculptures were created at the time of the Assyrian and the Babylonian empires.



A clay tablet with the accounts of sheep and goats, from Tello, southern Iraq



## Development of Script

Development of script is an important milestone in human history. Writing system began to emerge in Sumeria in the later part of fourth millennium BC (BCE). Hieroglyphic, the Egyptian system of writing, developed in early third millennium BC (BCE). The Harappans also had a system of writing around the same time, but it has not yet been deciphered. The Chinese civilisation too developed a writing system from a very early period.

Cuneiform : From pictograph to Assyrian				
Original pictograph	pictograph in later cuneiform	early Babylonian	Assyrian	Original or derived meaning
				fish
				bird
				star
				tree
				grain
				house
				river
				mountain
				person
				boat
				wheel

Development of cuneiform script

## Science

The Mesopotamians excelled in mathematics, astronomy and medicine. They developed the concepts of multiplication, division and cubic equation. The numerical system based on 60 was conceived by them. They were the ones to formulate the 60-minute hour, the 24-hour day and the 360° circle. The Sumerian calendar had seven days in a week. Their numerical system had place values. They created the water clock and the lunar calendar based on the movement of the moon. They developed methods for measuring areas and solids. They also developed advanced weight and measurement systems.

They introduced the twelve month calendar system based on lunar months. Their ideas influenced Greek astronomy. They had developed a medicinal system as well. A text called the *Diagnostic Handbook*, dated to the 11th century BC (BCE) Babylon, lists symptoms and prognoses. This indicates their scientific understanding of herbs and minerals.

## Contributions of the Mesopotamian Civilisation

- The invention of the potter's wheel is credited to the Sumerians.
- They developed the calendar system of 360 days and divided a circle into 360 units.
- The cuneiform system of writing was their contribution.
- The Hammurabi's law code was another legacy of the Mesopotamians.

## 2.4 The Chinese Civilisation

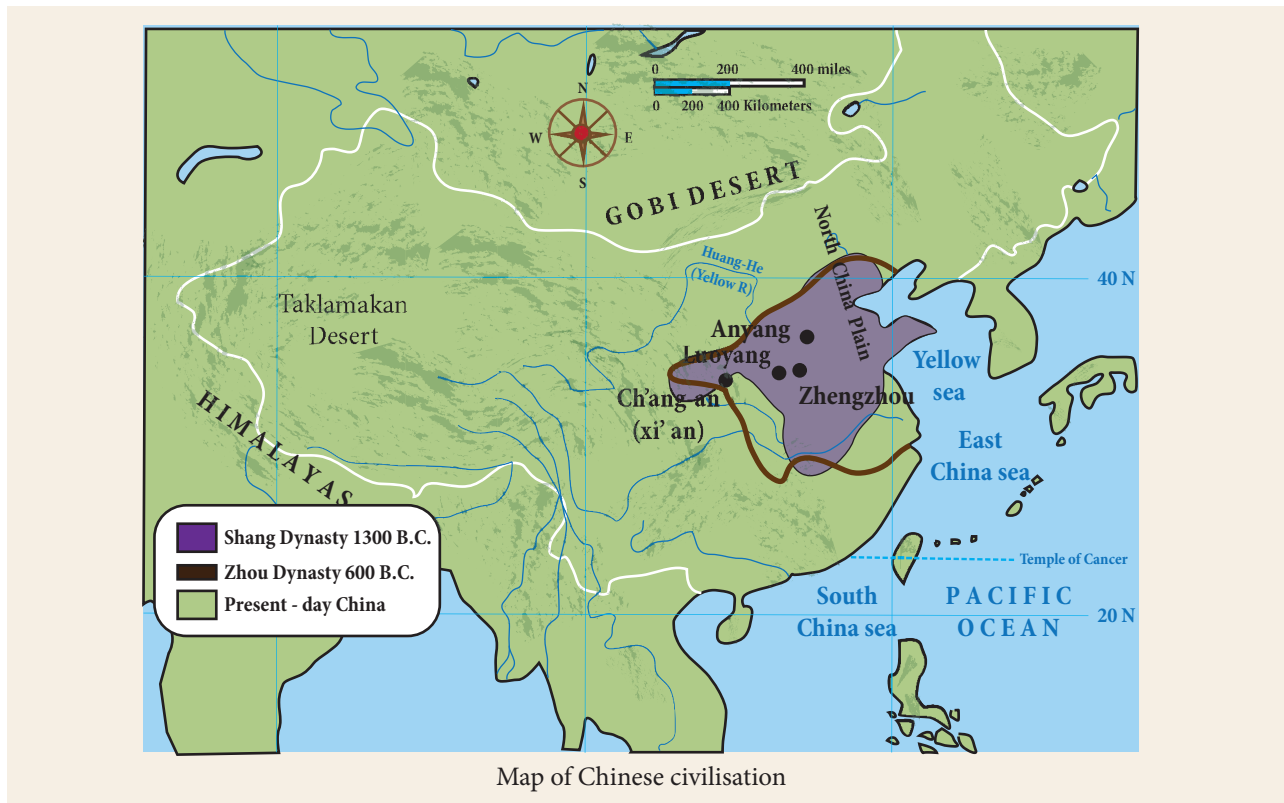
China has two major rivers. One is known as Huang He (Yellow River) and the other is called Yangtze River. The Yellow River is known as the Sorrow of China, since it changed its course and caused frequent floods.

Evidence for the prehistoric Peking man (700,000 BP and 200,000 BP) and Yuanmou Man exists in China. Neolithic communities lived in China between 4,500 and 3,750 BC (BCE). The Henan province in the Yellow and Yangtze river valley contain evidence for Neolithic villages. China had many city states and gradually these states became part of an empire.

## Polity and Emperors

Shi Huangdi (Qin Shi Huang, which means the first emperor) founded the Qin (Chin) dynasty. The emperor had the title 'son of heaven'. He is considered to be the first emperor of China. The period





between 221 and 206 BC (BCE) is known as the imperial era in China. He conquered other principalities in 221 BC (BCE) and remained the emperor till 212 BC (BCE). He defeated the feudal lords and established a strong empire. He is credited with unifying China. Shi Huangdi destroyed the walled fortifications of different States and constructed the Great Wall of China to protect the empire from the invading nomadic people. He also built roads to integrate the empire.

### The Han Empire (206–220 AD (CE))

During this period, a written history of this empire was made available in China. The greatest of the Han emperors, Wu Ti (Han Wu the Great, 141 to 87 BC (BCE)), expanded the empire and built many public amenities, including irrigation tanks. He sent Zhang Qian as emissary to the West in 138 BC (BCE) and thereby paved the way for the opening of the Silk Road in 130 BC (BCE) to encourage trade activities.

Because of the Silk Road and the resultant trade connections, China benefitted immensely during the rule of Emperor Zhang

(75–88 AD (CE)). Chinese silk was much sought after by the Romans during the time of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius in 166 AD (CE). Some of the Chinese silk might have reached Rome through the ports of Tamilagam.

### The Terracotta Army

The Terracotta Army refers to the large collection of terracotta warrior images found in China. They depict the armies of the king Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of China. They were buried with the king in 210–209 BC (BCE). They are found at the northern foot of the Lishan Mountain, thirty five kilometres northeast of Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, as part of the mausoleum of the king.



Terracotta Warriors, China

## Philosophy and Literature

Chinese poets and philosophers such as Lao Tze, Confucius, Mencius, Mo Ti (Mot Zu) and Tao Chien (365-427 AD (CE)) contributed to the development of Chinese civilisation. Sun-Tzu, a military strategist, wrote the work called *Art of War*. The *Spring and Autumn Annals* is the official chronicle of the state at the time. The Yellow Emperor's *Canon of Medicine* is considered China's earliest written book on medicine. It was codified during the time of Han Dynasty.

Lao Tze (c. 604–521 BC (BCE)) was the master archive keeper of Chou state. He was the founder of Taoism. He argued that desire is the root cause of all evils.



Confucius

Confucius (551–497 BC (BCE)) was famous among the Chinese philosophers. He was a political reformer. His name means Kung, the master. He insisted on cultivation of one's own personal life. He said, "If personal life is cultivated, family life is regulated; and once family life is regulated, national life is regulated."

Mencius (372–289 BC (BCE)) was another well-known Chinese philosopher. He travelled throughout China and offered his counsel to the rulers.

### Chinese Script

Chinese developed a writing system from an early time. Initially it was a pictographic system and later it was converted into a symbol form.



Chinese script on the bone

### Contribution of the Chinese Civilisation

- Writing system was improved
- Invention of paper
- Opening of the Silk Road
- Invention of gun powder

## 2.5 Indus Civilisation

The Indus civilisation, also known as the Harappan civilisation, covers an area of over 1.5 million square kilometres in India and Pakistan. Sutkagen-Dor in the west on the Pakistan–Iran border Shortugai (Afghanistan) in the north Alamgirpur (Uttar Pradesh in India) in the east and Daimabad (Maharashtra in India) in the south are the boundaries within which the Harappan culture has been found. Its main concentration is in the regions of Gujarat, Pakistan, Rajasthan and Haryana.



### Planned Towns



The Great Bath

Harappa (Punjab, Pakistan), Mohenjo-Daro (Sindh, Pakistan), Dholavira (Gujarat, India), Kalibangan (Rajasthan, India), Lothal (Gujarat, India), Banawali (Rajasthan, India), Rakhigarhi (Haryana, India) and Surkotada (Gujarat, India) are the major cities of the Indus civilisation. Fortification, well-planned streets and lanes and drainages can be observed in the Harappan towns. The Harappans used baked and unbaked bricks and stones for construction. A civic authority perhaps controlled the planning of the towns. A few of the houses had more than one floor. The tank called the Great Bath at Mohenjo-Daro was an important structure, well paved with several adjacent rooms. Some unearthed structures have been identified as the granary. We do not know



about the nature of the state or political organisation of the Harappans. But they must have had a political organisation at the level of an early form of state. A male image from Mohenjo-Daro has been identified as 'priest king', but we do not know about the accuracy of this interpretation.



The Indus Valley civilisation is also known as the Harappan civilisation, since Harappa was the first site to be discovered. This civilisation is known as Harappan civilisation rather than Indus Valley civilisation, since it extended beyond the Indus river valley.

The structure identified as granary should be considered archaeologists' interpretation.

## Agriculture and Animal Domestication

The Harappans practiced agriculture. They cultivated wheat, barley and various types of

millets. They adopted a double cropping system. Pastoralism was also known to them. They reared cattle, sheep and goats. They had knowledge of various animals including elephants but did not use horses. The Harappan cattle are called Zebu, and it is a large breed, often represented in their seals.

## Pottery

The Harappans used painted pottery. Their potteries have a deep red slip and black paintings. The pottery has shapes like dish-on-stands, storage jars, perforated jars, goblets, S-shaped jars, plates, dishes, bowls and pots. The painted motifs, generally noticed on the pottery, depict *pipal* tree leaves, fish-scale designs, intersecting circles, zigzag lines, horizontal bands, and geometrical motifs, and floral and faunal patterns.



Harappan painted pottery

## Metal Tools and Weapons

The Harappans used **chert** blades, copper objects and bone and ivory tools. They did not possess knowledge about iron. The tools and equipments such as points, chisels, needles, fishhooks, razors, weighing pans, mirror and antimony rods were made of bronze. The chisels made out of Rohri chert were used by the Harappans. Their weapons included arrows, spears, a chisel-bladed tool and axe. The bronze image of dancing girl from Mohenjo-Daro is suggestive of the use of lost-wax process.

**Rohri chert** refers to the chert raw material collected from Rohri in Pakistan. It was used by the Harappans for making blades. The Harappans used both stone and bronze tools.



Rohri chert blades from Harappan site of Shikarpur, Gujarat

## Textiles and Ornaments

The Harappans used metal and stone ornaments. They had knowledge of cotton and silk textiles. They made carnelian, copper and gold ornaments. Faience, stoneware and shell bangles were also used. Some of them had etched designs, and the Harappans exported them to the Mesopotamia.



Indus ornaments

## Trade and Exchange

The Harappans had close trade links with the Mesopotamians. Harappan seals have been found in the West Asian sites namely Oman, Bahrain, Iraq and Iran. The cuneiform inscriptions mention the trade contacts between Mesopotamia and the Harappans. The mention of 'Meluhha' in the cuneiform inscriptions is considered to refer to the Indus region.

## Weights and Measures

The Harappans developed a system of proper weights and measures. Since they engaged in commercial transactions, they needed standard measures. The cubical chert weights are found at the Harappan sites. The copper plates for weighing balances have also been found. The weights point to their knowledge of the binary system. The ratio of weighing is doubled as 1:2:4:8:16:32.



Weights of Harappan civilisation



Copper balance from Mohenjo-Daro

## Seals, Sealings and Scripts

The seals from various media such as steatite, copper, terracotta and ivory are found in the Harappan sites. They were probably used in the trade activities. The Harappan script is not yet deciphered. About



A seal with the script

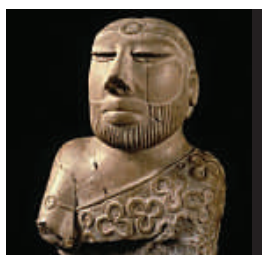
5,000 texts have been documented from the Harappan sites. Some scholars are of the view that the script is in Dravidian language.



Terracotta toys

## Arts and Amusement

The terracotta figurines, paintings on the pottery and the bronze images from the Harappan sites suggest the artistic skills of the Harappans. 'Priest king' made of steatite and dancing girl made of bronze (both from Mohenjo-Daro) as well as stone sculptures from Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro and Dholavira are the important objects of art. Toy carts, rattles, wheels, tops, marbles and hop scotches made in terracotta suggest the amusement of the Harappan people.



The priest king,  
Mohenjo-Daro



The Dancing Girl from Mohenjo-Daro

## Religion

The Indus people had a close relationship with nature. They worshipped

*pipal* trees. Some of the terracotta figures resemble the mother Goddess. Fire altars have been identified at Kalibangan. The Indus people buried the dead. Burials were done elaborately and evidence for cremation has also been found.

## Original Inhabitants and their Culture

The authors of the Harappan civilisation are not known, since the script has not been deciphered. One school of thought argues that they spoke the Dravidian language. The archaeological evidence shows movement of the Harappans to the east and south after the decline of the Indus civilisation. It is probable that some of the Harappan people moved into different parts of India. Only the decipherment of the script can give a definite answer.

Indus civilisation had more than one group of people. Several groups including farmers, pastoralists and hunter-gatherers lived in the Indus region. The Indus region had villages and large towns. The population was mixed.

The period of the civilisation has been divided into Early Harappan, starting around 3300 BC (BCE) and continuing to 2600 BC (BCE) and mature Harappan, are the last phase civilisation from 2600 to 1900 BC (BCE). The later Harappan existed upto 1700 BC (BCE).

## Decline of Indus Culture

The Indus civilisation and its urban features started declining from about 1900 BC (BCE). Changes in climate, decline of the trade with Mesopotamia and drying up or flooding of the river Indus, foreign invasion were some of the reasons attributed to the collapse of this civilisation and for the migration of people in the southern and eastern directions. It did not completely disappear. It continued as rural culture.

## Indus Script – A Case Study

### Cracking The Indus Script

Harappans knew the art of writing. The script is found on seals, in moulded terracotta and on pottery. It has not been deciphered till now. Because the Indus texts are very short, the average length of the inscription is less than five signs. It has no bilingual text (like a Rosetta stone written in Egyptian and Greek).

It was written generally from right to left.

- Based on computer analysis, the Russian scholar Yuri Knorozov suggested that the Indus inscriptions have a Dravidian-like word order.
- Scholar and researcher Iravatham Mahadevan, who has done extensive research on Indus civilisation, says, “We may hopefully find that the proto Dravidian roots of Harappa language and South Indian Dravidian languages are similar.”
- According to Mahadevan, a stone Celt discovered in Mayiladuthurai (Tamil Nadu) has same marking as that of the symbol of the Indus script.
- In May 2007, the TamilNadu Archaeology Department found pots with arrow head symbols at Melaperumpallam near Poompuhar, which resembled the seals in Mohenjo-Daro.

According to Parpola, the sign of the Indus script is likely to represent Dravidian mono-syllabic roots.



Sign	Identification	Reading	Meaning	Sign	Identification	Reading	Meaning
a.	halving + fish	<i>pacu mi̇ n</i>	green star (Mercury)	a.	fish	<i>mi̇ n</i>	1. fish 2. star
b.	roof + fish	<i>mey/may mi̇ n</i>	black star (Saturn)	b.	3 + fish	<i>mu(m) mi̇ n</i>	three stars (Mrigasiras)
c.	intermediate space + fish	<i>vel(li) mi̇ n</i>	white star (Venus)	c.	6 + fish	<i>caru mi̇ n</i>	six stars (Pleiades)
d.	dot/drop + fish	<i>pottu mi̇ n</i>	1. red fish (carp) 2. red star (Rohini)	d.	7 + fish	<i>elu mi̇ n</i>	seven stars (Ursa Major)



## Recap

- After the Neolithic Age, civilisations sprang and grew in the Bronze Age.
- People began their settled life in planned towns and began to involve in trade and exchange. Science and technology developed.
- The civilisations are relatively complex social systems.
- The Egyptian civilisation excelled in architecture and the pyramids were its important contribution.
- The Mesopotamian civilisation contributed to the development of calendar system and astronomy.
- The Chinese civilisation contributed in terms of philosophy and inventions.
- The Indus civilisation produced a variety of commodities using innovative techniques. It had cultural contacts with West Asia.



## EXERCISE



### I. Choose the correct answer

1. The earliest signs to denote words through pictures
  - a. Logographic
  - b. Pictographic
  - c. Ideographic
  - c. Stratigraphic
2. The preservation process of dead body in ancient Egypt
  - a. Sarcophagus
  - b. Hyksos
  - c. Mummification
  - c. Polytheism
3. The Sumerian system of writing
  - a. Pictographic
  - b. Hieroglyphic
  - c. Sonogram
  - d. Cuneiform
4. The Harappans did not have the knowledge of
  - a. Gold and Elephant
  - b. Horse and Iron
  - c. Sheep and Silver
  - d. Ox and Platinum
5. The Bronze image suggestive of the use of lost-wax process known to the Indus people.
  - a. Jar
  - b. Priest king
  - c. Dancing girl
  - d. Bird
6. (i) The oldest civilisation in Mesopotamia belonged to the Akkadians.  
(ii) The Chinese developed the Hieroglyphic system.  
(iii) The Euphrates and Tigris drain into the Mannar Gulf.  
(iv) Hammurabi, the king of Babylon was a great law maker.
  - a. (i) is correct
  - b. (i) and (ii) are correct
  - c. (iii) is correct
  - d. (iv) is correct
7. (i) Yangtze River is known as Sorrow of China.  
(ii) Wu-Ti constructed the Great Wall of China.  
(iii) Chinese invented gun powder.  
(iv) According to traditions Mencius was the founder of Taoism.
  - a. (i) is correct b.
  - b. (ii) is correct
  - c. (iii) is correct
  - d. (iii) and (iv) are correct
8. What is the correct chronological order of four civilisations of Mesopotamia
  - a. Sumerians - Assyrians - Akkadians - Babylonians
  - b. Babylonians - Sumerians - Assyrians - Akkadians
  - c. Sumerians - Akkadians - Babylonians - Assyrians
  - d. Babylonians - Assyrians - Akkadians - Sumerians
9. **Assertion (A):** Assyrians of Mesopotamian civilisation were contemporaries of Indus civilisation.



**Reason(R):** The Documents of an Assyrian ruler refer to the ships from Meluha

- A and R are correct and A explains R
- A and R are correct but A doesn't explain R
- A is incorrect but R is correct
- Both A and R are incorrect

## II. Fill in the blanks

- \_\_\_\_\_ is a massive lime stone image of a lion with a human head.
- The early form of writing of the Egyptians is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ specifies the Laws related to various crimes in ancient Babylonia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was the master archive keeper of Chou state, according to traditions.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ figurines and paintings on the pottery from the sites suggest the artistic skills of the Harappans.

## III. Find out the correct statement

- The Great Bath at Harappa is well-built with several adjacent rooms.
  - The cuneiform inscriptions relate to the epic of Gilgamesh.
  - The terracotta figurines and dancing girl made of copper suggest the artistic skills of Egyptians.
  - The Mesopotamians devised a solar calendar system.
- Amon was considered the king of god in ancient Egypt.
  - The fortified Harappan city had the temples.
  - The great sphinx is a pyramid-shaped monument found in ancient Mesopotamia.
  - The invention of the potter's wheel is credited to the Egyptians.

## IV. Match the following

- |                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Pharaoh         | - A kind of grass                   |
| 2. Papyrus         | - the oldest written story on Earth |
| 3. Great Law maker | - Mohenjo-Daro                      |
| 4. Gilgamesh       | - Hammurabi                         |
| 5. The Great Bath  | - The Egyptian king                 |

## V. Answer the following briefly

- The Egyptians excelled in art and architecture. Illustrate.
- State the salient features of the Ziggurats
- Hammurabi Code is an important legal document. Explain.

## VI. Answer all the questions given under each caption

- Early Civilisations
  - What is meant by civilisation?
  - Name the important early civilisations.
  - What did South India witness during the time of early civilisation?
  - What happened when civilisation began to take shape?
- Features of Egyptian civilisation:
  - Why was Egypt called the 'Gift of Nile'?
  - Who were Pharaohs and Viziers?
  - What is a pyramid and why was it built?
  - What is the process of mummification?

## VII. Answer the following in Detail

- Define the terms Hieroglyphics and Cuneiform with their main features.
- To what extent is the Chinese influence reflected in the fields of philosophy and literature.
- Write about the hidden treasure of Indus civilisation.

## FUN WITH HISTORY

### Student Activities

Mark the areas of Bronze Age civilisation on the world map.

Prepare a chart on the pyramids and the mummies.

Collect the pictures of the seals and the pottery of Indus people.

### Assignment with teacher's guidance

Prepare a hand out comparing the ancient world civilisations.

Prepare a scrap book collecting pictures on Indus civilisation from website.



## REFERENCE BOOKS

1. Chris Scarre. *The Human Past: World Prehistory and the Development of Human Societies*. Thames and Hudson.
2. G.L.Possehl. *Indus Age-The Beginnings*. Oxford and IBH Publications.
3. J.M.Kenoyer. *Ancient Cities of the Indus Valley Civilisation*. American Institute of Pakistan Studies.



## INTERNET RESOURCES



## ICT CORNER

### Explore ancient architecture

Let us fly on air



### Steps

- Type the URL given below or scan the QR code. Then press the enter key.
- Click the 'Full Screen' to view the architecture.
- Explore the options given at the left lower side. Click 'Open Google Map'. Drag the mouse and rotate the 'Red Shaded Area' in it to watch the area in 360° view or use the arrow keys for the same view.
- Keep the cursor on question marks to get details about that place.



# UNIT

## 3

# Early Tamil Society and Culture

## Learning Objectives

The objectives of this lesson are to familiarize yourself with

- Tamil literary, archaeological, epigraphic and non-Tamil text sources for the study of the early Tamil society
- *Thinai*-based life in the society
- Literature, polity, society, economy and urbanization during the period



## Introduction

Tamil civilization, as we have seen, begins atleast three centuries before the Common Era (AD (CE)). As seafaring people, Tamil traders and sailors established commercial and cultural links across the seas and merchants from foreign territories also visited the Tamil region. The resulting cultural and mercantile activities and internal developments led to urbanization in this region. Towns and ports emerged. Coins and currency came into circulation. Written documents were produced. The Tamil-Brahmi script was adopted to write the Tamil language. Classical Tamil poems were composed.

### 3.1 Sources for the study of early Tamil society

The sources for reconstructing the history of the ancient Tamils are:

1. Classical Tamil literature
2. Epigraphy (inscriptions)
3. Archaeological excavations and material culture
4. Non-Tamil and Foreign Literature

## The Classical Sangam Tamil Literature

The Classical Sangam *corpus* (collection) consists of the *Tholkappiyam*, the *Pathinen Melkanakku* (18 Major works) and the *Pathinen Kilkanakku* (18 minor works) and the five epics.

### Tholkappiyam

*Tholkappiyam*, attributed to Tholkappiyar, is the earliest written work on Tamil grammar. Apart from elaborating the rules of grammar, the third section of *Tholkappiyam* also describes poetic conventions that provide information on Tamil social life.

The texts of *Pathinen Melkanakku* include *Pathupaattu* (ten Idylls) and *Ettuthogai* (the eight anthologies). These texts are the oldest among the classical Tamil texts. The texts of *Pathinen Kilkanakku* belong to a later date.

### The *Ettuthogai* or the eight anthologies are

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) <i>Natrinai</i>    | (2) <i>Kurunthogai</i>    |
| (3) <i>Paripaadal</i>  | (4) <i>Pathittrupathu</i> |
| (5) <i>Aingurunuru</i> | (6) <i>Kalithogai</i>     |
| (7) <i>Akanaanuru</i>  | (8) <i>Puranaanuru</i>    |

### **Pathupattu or ten Idylls collection includes ten long songs**

- (1) *Thirumurugatrupadai*
- (2) *Porunaratrupadai*
- (3) *Perumpanatrupadai*
- (4) *Sirupanatrupadai*
- (5) *Mullaipaattu*
- (6) *Nedunalvaadai*
- (7) *Maduraikanchi*
- (8) *Kurinjipaattu*
- (9) *Pattinappaalai*
- (10) *Malaipadukadam*

### **Pathinen Kilkanakku (18 minor works)**

The *Pathinen Kilkanakku* comprises eighteen texts elaborating on ethics and morals. The pre-eminent work among these is the *Thirukkural* composed by Thiruvalluvar. In 1330 couplets *Thirukkural* considers questions of morality, statecraft and love.

### **The Five Epics**

The epics or *Kappiyams* are long narrative poem of very high quality. They are,

- (1) *Silappathikaaram* (2) *Manimekalai*
- (3) *Seevaka Chinthamani*
- (4) *Valaiyapathi* (5) *Kundalakesi*

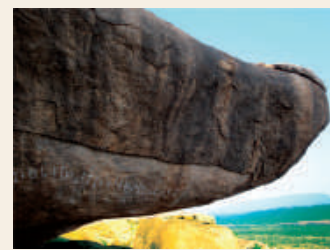
### **Epigraphy**

Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions. Inscriptions are documents scripted on stone, copper plates, and other media such as coins, rings, etc. The development of script marks the beginning of the historical period.

### **Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions**

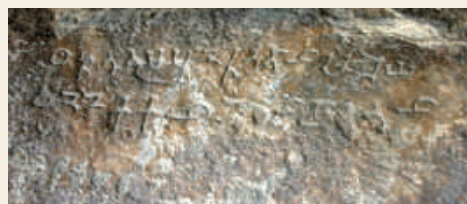
Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions have been found in more than 30 sites in Tamil Nadu mostly on cave surfaces and rock shelters. These caves were the abodes of monks, mostly Jaina monks. The natural caves were converted into residence by cutting a drip-line to keep rain water away from the cave. Inscriptions often occur below such drip-lines. The sites have smooth stone beds carved on rock surface for monks who led a simple life and lived in these shelters. Merchants and kings converted these natural formations as habitation for monks, who had

renounced worldly life. Mangulam, Muttupatti, Pugalur, Arachalur and Kongarpuliyankulam and Jambai are some of the major sites of such caves with Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions. Around Madurai many such caves with Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions can still be seen. Many of them are located along ancient trade routes.



A drip-line at a rock cave with Tamil-Brahmi inscription

**Note:** You will notice that among the old inscriptions, people (both local and tourists) have marked their names thereby destroying some of the ancient inscriptions. Such acts of destruction of heritage property or property belonging to others are called **vandalism**.



The Tamil-Brahmi inscription at Arachalur



Estampage copy of the above inscription



A rock bed at K. Puliankulam

## Hero Stones

Hero stones are memorials erected for those who lost their lives in the battles and in cattle raids. As cattle were considered an important source of wealth, raiding cattle owned by adjoining tribes and clans was common practice in a pastoral society. During the Sangam Age, the *Mullai* landscape followed the pastoral way of life. Tribal chieftains plundered the cattle wealth of enemies whose warriors fought to protect their cattle. Many warriors died in such battles and were remembered as martyrs. Memorial stones were erected in their honour. Sangam literature vividly portrays these battles and clashes, and describes such hero stones as objects of worship. *Tholkappiyam* describes the procedures for erecting hero stones.

Hero stones of the Sangam Age with Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions can be found at Pulimankombai and Thathapatti in Theni district and Porpanaikottai in Pudukkottai district. Those of the Sangam Age discovered till now do not have images or sculptures.



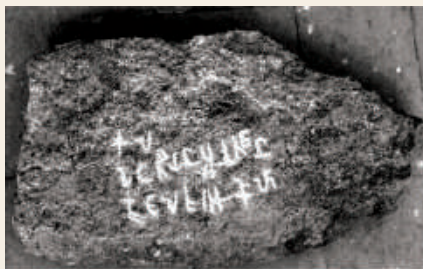
### Pulimankombai Hero stone

Pulimankombai is a village in the Vaigai river valley in Theni district. In 2006, rare hero stone inscriptions in Tamil-Brahmi script were discovered in this village.

One of the inscriptions from Pulimankombai reads

**“Kudalur Akol pedu tiyan antavan kal”**

It means "The stone of Tiyan Antavan who was killed in a cattle raid at the village of Kudalur".



Hero stone-Pulimankombai

Hero stones of the post-Sangam Age and the Pallava period occur in large numbers in pastoral regions especially around the Chengam region near Thiruvannamalai district. These hero stones have inscriptions and the images of warriors and names of heroes.

## Inscriptions

Pottery vessels from the Early Historic Period have names of people engraved on them in Tamil-Brahmi script. Potsherds have been discovered in Arikamedu, Azhagankulam, Kodumanal, Keezhadi, and many other sites in Tamil Nadu. Pottery inscribed with names in Tamil-Brahmi script have also been found in Berenike and Quseir al Qadhim in Egypt and in Khor Rori in Oman indicating that early Tamils had trade contacts with West Asia and along the Red Sea coast. People etched their names on pottery to indicate ownership. Many of the names are in Tamil while some are in **Prakrit**.



A motif of a ship on pottery from Azhagankulam

**Prakrit** was the language used by the common people in the Northern part of India during the Mauryan period.

## Archaeological Sites

**Archaeological excavation** refers to systematically digging a site to recover material evidence for exploring and interpreting societies of the past.

Archaeological excavations at the early historic sites are the source of evidence of the activities of the Sangam Age people. Excavations at Arikamedu, Azhagankulam, Uraiyur, Kanchipuram, Kaveripoompattinam, Korkai,

Vasavasamudram, Keezhadi, Kodumanal in Tamil Nadu, and Pattanam in Kerala provide the evidence we have of this period.

Arikkamedu, near Puducherry, is a Sangam Age port, excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). British archaeologist, Robert Eric Mortimer Wheeler, French Archaeologist, J.M. Casal, and Indian archaeologists, A. Ghosh and Krishna Deva, excavated this site. They found evidence of a planned town, warehouse, streets, tanks and ring wells

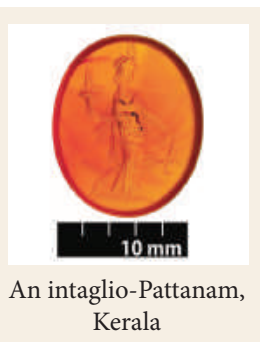


A ring well at Arikkamedu

**The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** is a Central government agency that manages archaeological sites and monuments in India. The Government of Tamil Nadu has its own department for archaeology called the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology. The Indian Treasure Trove Act (1878), the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act (1972), the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (1958) are legislation related to the preservation of archaeological remains in India.

## Material Culture

Archaeologists have found evidence of brick structures and industrial activities, as well as artefacts such as beads, bangles, cameos, intaglios, and other materials in these sites. Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions on pottery and coins have also been unearthed. Evidences of the various arts, crafts and industries together help us reconstruct the way of life of the people of those times. From this we learn and understand how they might have lived.



An intaglio-Pattanam, Kerala

**Cameo** – an ornament made in precious stone where images are carved on the surface.

**Intaglio** – an ornament in which images are carved as recess, below the surface.

## Coins

Coins as a medium of exchange were introduced for the first time in the Sangam Age. The coins of the Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas, punch-marked coins, and Roman coins form another important source of evidence from the Sangam Age. Punch-marked coins have been found at Kodumanal and Bodinayakkanur. Roman coins are concentrated in the Coimbatore region, and are found at Azhagankulam, Karur, and Madurai. They were used as **bullion** for their metal value and as ornaments.



Roman Coins - Pudukkottai

**Bullion** means precious metal available in the form of ingots.

**Punch-marked coins** are the earliest coins used in India. They are mostly made of silver and have numerous symbols punched on them. Hence, they are known as punch-marked coins



Punch-marked coins

## Non-Tamil Sources (Foreign Accounts)

Non-Tamil literary sources also offer information on early Tamil society. The presence of the non-Tamil sources reveals the extensive contacts and interactions of the early Tamil society with the outside world.

## Arthasastra

*Arthasastra*, the classic work on economy and statecraft authored by Kautilya during the Mauryan period, refers to Pandya kavataka. It may mean the pearl and shells from the Pandyan country.

## Mahavamsa

*Mahavamsa*, the Sri Lankan Buddhist **chronicle**, composed in the Pali language, mentions merchants and horse traders from Tamil Nadu and South India.

**Chronicle** is a narrative text presenting the important historical events in chronological order.

## Periplus of Erythrean Sea

*Periplus of Erythrean Sea* is an ancient Greek text whose author is not known. The term Periplus means navigational guide used by sailors. Erythrean Sea refers to the waters around the Red Sea. It makes references to the Sangam Age ports of Muciri, Thondi, Korkai and Kumari, as well as the Cheras and the Pandyas.

## Pliny's Natural History

Pliny the Elder, was a Roman who wrote *Natural History*. Written in Latin, it is a text on the natural wealth of the Roman Empire. Pliny speaks about the pepper trade with India. He states that it took 40 days to reach India, from Ocellis near North East Africa, if the south west monsoon wind was favourable. He also mentions that the Pandyas of Madurai controlled the port of Bacare on the Kerala coast. The current name of Bacare is not known. Pliny laments the loss of Roman wealth due to Rome's pepper trade with India indicating the huge volume useful of the pepper that was traded.

## Ptolemy's Geography

Ptolemy's *Geography* is a gazetteer and atlas of Roman times providing geographical details of the Roman Empire in the second century AD (CE). Kaveripoompattinam (Khabaris Emporium), Korkai (Kolkoi), Kanniyakumari

(Komaria), and Muciri (Muziris) are some of the places mentioned in his *Geography*.

## Peutingerian table



Map of Peutingerian table

*Peutingerian table* is an illustrated map of the Roman roads. It shows the areas of ancient Tamilagam and the port of Muziris.

**Note:** Taprobane refers to Sri Lanka as Island. Muziris refers to the port of Muchiri.

## Vienna Papyrus

Vienna **papyrus**, a Greek document datable to the second century AD (CE), mentions Muciri's trade of olden days. It is in the Papyrus Museum attached to the Austrian National Library, Vienna (Austria). It contains a written agreement between traders and mentions the name of a ship, Hermapollon, and lists articles of export such as pepper and ivory that were shipped from India to the Roman Empire.

**Papyrus**, a paper produced out of the papyrus plant used extensively for writing purposes in ancient Egypt.

## 3.2 The Sangam Age

The Sangam Age or the Early Historic period is an important phase in the history of South India. This period is marked out from prehistory, because of the availability of textual sources, namely Sangam literature and Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions. Sangam text is a vast corpus of literature that serves as an important source for the study of the people and society of the relevant period.

## Chronology

There is considerable debate among scholars about the age and chronology of Sangam society. The Sangam texts are generally dated to between third century BC (BC (BCE)) and the third century AD (CE). The references in Greco-Roman texts, Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions and the references to the Cheras, Cholas and the Pandyas in the **Ashokan** inscription corroborate this date. It is generally agreed that the Sangam poems were composed in the early part of the historical period, but were compiled into anthologies in the later period.

**Ashokan Brahmi** - the Brahmi script used in Ashokan edicts or inscriptions.

## The Thinaï

The concept of *Thinaï* is presented in the Tamil Grammar work of *Tholkappiyam* and this concept is essential to understand the classical Tamil poems. *Thinaï* is a poetic theme, which means a class or category and refers to a habitat or eco-zone with specific physiographical characteristics. Sangam poems are set in these specific eco-zones and reveal that human life has deep relationships with nature.

The themes of the poems are broadly defined as *akam* (interior) and *puram* (exterior). *Akathinaï* refers to various situations of love and family life, while *Purathinaï* is concerned with all others aspects of life and deals particularly with war and heroism.

**Ainthinaï:** The Five *Thinais* or landscapes.

Tamilagam was divided into five landscapes. Each region had distinct characteristics – a presiding deity, occupation, people and cultural life according to its specific environmental conditions. This classification has been interpreted by scholars to reflect real life situations in these landscapes.

**The five landscapes are Kurunji, Mullai, Marutham, Neythal and Paalai.**

- *Kurunji* refers to the hilly and mountainous region.

- *Mullai* is forested and pastoral region.
- *Marutham* is the fertile riverine valley.
- *Neythal* is coastal region.
- *Paalai* is sandy desert region.

## 3.3 Sangam Age Polity: Political Powers of Tamilagam

The Sangam Age has its roots in the Iron Age. In the Iron Age people were organised into **chiefdoms**. From such communities of Iron Age emerged the Vendhars of the early historic period and the Velirs of the Sangam Age were chieftains.

The Mauryan emperor, Asoka, conquered Kalinga (Odisha) and parts of Andhra and Karnataka regions.

## The Muvendhar

Among the political powers of the Sangam Age, the Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas occupied pre-eminent positions. They were known as *Muvendhar* (the three kings). The *muvendhar* controlled the major towns and ports of the Sangam period.

## The Cheras

The Cheras, referred to as Keralaputras in the Ashokan inscriptions, controlled the region of present-day Kerala and also the western parts of Tamil Nadu. Vanci was the capital of the Cheras while Muciri and Thondi were their port towns. Vanci is identified with Karur in Tamil Nadu while some others identify it with Thiruvanchaikalam in Kerala. Pathirtruppathu speaks about the Chera kings and their territory. The Cheras wore



A Chera coin with bow and arrow, and an elephant goad on the obverse and elephant on the reverse



A map of major Sangam Age sites

garlands made from the flowers of the palm tree. The inscriptions of Pugalur near Karur mention the Chera kings of three generations. Coins of Chera kings have been found in Karur.

The *Silappathikaram* speaks about Chera Senguttuvan, who built a temple for Kannagi, the protagonist of the epic. The bow and arrow was the symbol of the Cheras. Legend has it that Ilango who composed the *Silappathikaram*, was the brother of Chera Senguttuvan.

### The Cholas

The Cholas ruled over the Kaveri delta and northern parts of Tamil Nadu. Their capital was Uraiyur and their port town



was Kaveripoompattinam or Pumpuhar, where the river Kaveri drains into the Bay of Bengal. Pattinappaalai is a long poem about Kaveripoompattinam composed by the poet Kadiyalur Uruthirankannanar. *Silappathikaram* describes the trading activities at Kaveripoompattinam. Karikalan is notable among the Chola kings and is credited with bringing forestlands under the plough and developing irrigation facilities by effectively utilising the water from the river Kaveri.

The foundation for the extensive harnessing of water for irrigation purposes, which reached its zenith in later Chola times (10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries) was laid in his time. Karikalan fought battles with the Pandyas, the Cheras and other

chieftains. The Chola emblem was tiger and they issued square copper coins with images of a tiger on the obverse, elephant and the sacred symbols on the reverse.



Chola Coins with a tiger on the obverse, elephant and the sacred symbols on the reverse

### The Pandyas

The Pandyas who ruled the southern part of Tamil Nadu are referred in the Ashokan inscriptions. Madurai was the Pandya's capital. Tamil literary tradition credits Pandyan rulers with patronizing Tamil Sangams (academies) and supporting the compilations of poems. The Mangulam Tamil-Brahmi inscription mentions the king Nedunchezhiyan. Nediyan, Mudathirumaran, Palayagasalai Mudukudumipperuvazhuti were some of the important rulers of the dynasty. The Pandyan symbol was the fish.



Sangam Age Pandya coin with fish symbol

### Velirs / Chieftains

Apart from the *Vendhars*, there were *Velirs* and numerous chieftains who occupied territories on the margins of the *muvendhar*. The *velirs* were the seven chiefs Pari, Kari, Ori, Nalli, Pegan, Ai and Athiyaman. Sangam poems write extensively about the generosity of these *velirs*. These chiefs had intimate relations with the poets of their time and were known for

their large-heartedness. These chieftains had alliance with one or other of the *muvendhar* and helped them in their battles against the other *Vendhars*.

## 3.4 Society in Sangam Age

Many of the communities of the Iron Age society were organised as tribes, and some of them were Chieftdoms. The Sangam Age society was a society in transition from a tribal community ruled by a chief to a larger kingdom ruled by a king

### Composition of the Society

Social stratification had begun to take root in Tamil society by the Sangam times. There were several clan-based communities including groups such as Panar, Paratavar, Eyinar, Uzhavar, Kanavar, Vettuvavar and Maravar. The *Vendhars*, chiefs, and their associates formed the higher social groups. There were priests who were known as Antanars. There were artisan groups specialising in pottery and blacksmithy. The caste system we find in northern India did not take root in Tamil country as social groups were divided in to five situational types (tamil) and related occupational patterns.

The development of agriculture and pastoral ways of life might have harmed the eco-system and the naturally available forest and wild animals. It is possible that some of the hunter-gatherers might have been pushed to the forest areas and a few might have taken up the occupation of manual labourers. The development of agriculture in the wet-land region depended on the use of certain groups of people as labourers.

### Women

Women are frequently referred to in Tamil texts as mothers, heroines, and foster-mothers. friendly Women from Panar families, dancers, poets, and royal women were all portrayed in Sangam literature. There are references to women from all five eco-zones. For example, Vennikkuyathiyar is identified as a poetess from the village of Venni. There are references to



women protecting Thinaï fields from birds and Umanar kula women selling salt showing that women were involved in primary production. Instances where women preferred to die along with their husbands also occur in the literature of the times.

### 3.5 Economy

The *economy* was mixed as elaborated in the Thinaï concept. People practiced agriculture, pastoralism, trade and money exchange, hunting-gathering, and fishing depending upon the eco-zones in which they lived.

#### Agricultural Production

Agriculture was one of the main sources of subsistence. Crops like paddy, sugarcane, millets were cultivated. Both wet and dry land farming were practiced. In the riverine and tank-irrigated areas, paddy was cultivated. Millets were cultivated in dry lands. Varieties of rice such as *sennel* (red rice), *vennel* (white rice), and *aivananel* (a type of rice) are mentioned in the literature. Rice grains were found in burial urns at excavations in Adichanallur and Porunthal. People in the forest adopted *punam* or shifting cultivation.

**Pastoralism** – nomadic people earning livelihood by rearing cattle, sheep, and goat.

#### Industries and Crafts of the Sangam Age

Craft production and craft specialization were important aspects of urbanization. In the Sangam Age there were professional groups that produced various commodities. The system of production of commodities is called industry.

#### Pottery

Pottery was practised in many settlements. People used pottery produced by *Kalamceyko* (potters) in their daily activities and so they were made in large numbers. Black ware, russet-coated painted ware, black and red ware potteries were the different types of pottery used.



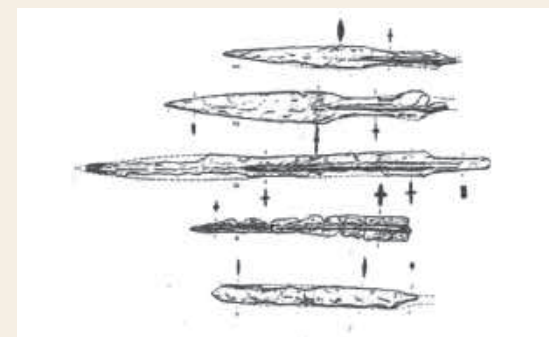
Different types of pottery from Porunthal excavations.



Russet coated painted pottery with wavy line decoration

#### Iron Smelting Industry

Iron manufacturing was an important artisanal activity. Iron smelting was undertaken in traditional furnaces and such furnaces, with terracotta pipes and raw ore have been found in many archaeological sites. For instance evidence of iron smelting has been found in Kodumanal and Guttur. Sangam literature speaks of blacksmiths, and their tools and activities. Iron implements were required for agriculture and warfare (swords, daggers, and spears).



Iron Swords from Puducherry

#### Stone Ornaments

Sangam Age people adorned themselves with a variety of ornaments. While the poor wore ornaments made of clay, terracotta, iron, and

leaves and flowers, the rich wore jewellery made of precious stones, copper, and gold.



Carnelian Beads of Sangam Age



Carnelian beads with etched designs of Sangam Age



Gold ornament axe



Gold pendant, Porunthal



Gold ornaments, Pattanam

## Gold jewellery

Gold ornaments were well known in this period. Gold coins from Roman was used to make jewellery. Evidence of gold smelting has been found at Pattanam in Kerala. Gold ornaments have been unearthed at the megalithic sites of Suttukeni, Adichanallur and Kodumanal, and towns of Arikamedu, Keezhadi and Pattanam in Kerala.

## Glass Beads

The presence of glass beads at the sites reveals that people of the Sangam Age knew how to make glass beads. Glass material (silica) was melted in a furnace and drawn into long tubes which were then cut into small beads. Glass beads came in various shapes and colour. Arikamedu and Kudikkadu, near Cuddalore show evidence of glass beads industry. It is possible that people who could not afford precious stones used glass beads instead.

## Pearl Fishery and Shell Bangle

The Pamban coast is famous for pearl fishery. A pearl has been discovered in recently excavated Keezhadi site. Shell bangles were very common in the Sangam Age. The Parathavars collected conch shells from the Pamban Island, which were cut and crafted into bangles by artisans. Whole shells as well as fragments of bangles have been found at many sites. Sangam literature describes women wearing shell bangles.



A terracotta seal with rice husk impression, Keezhadi

## Textiles

Textile production was another important occupation. Evidence of spindle whorls and pieces of cloth have been found at Kodumanal. Literature too refers to clothes called *kalingam* and other fine varieties of textiles. Periplus also mentions the fine variety of textiles produced in the Tamil region.

**Spindle whorls** were used for making thread from cotton.

## Exchange, Trade, Merchants, and Trade Routes

We saw the primary production of grains, cattle wealth, and various commodities. These goods were not produced by everybody and were not produced in all settlements. Resources and commodities were not available in all regions. For example, the hill region did not have fish or salt and the coastal regions could not produce paddy. Therefore trade and exchange was

important for people to have access to different commodities. This system was known as barter system.

### Traders

The terms *vanikan* and *nigama* (guild) appear in Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions. There were different types of merchants: gold merchants, cloth merchants, and salt merchants. Salt merchants were called Umanars and they travelled in bullock carts along with their family.

### Means of Transport

Bullock carts and animals were used to transport goods by land. Trade routes linked the various towns of Tamilagam. Various types of water crafts and sea-going vessels such as Kalam, Pahri, Odam, Toni, Teppam, and *Navai* are also mentioned in Tamil literature.

### Barter and Coins

Barter was the primary mode of exchange. For instance, rice was exchanged for fish. Salt was precious and a handful of it would fetch an equal amount of rice. The extensive availability of coin hoards of the Sangam Age of the Cheras, Cholas, Pandyas, and Malayaman indicates that they were used widely.

### Tamilagam and Overseas Interactions

Tamil country had connections with countries overseas both in the east and west. Roman ships used monsoon winds to cross the Western Sea or the Arabian Sea to connect Tamilagam with the Western world. Spices including pepper, ivory, and precious stones were exported. Metal including gold, silver and copper and precious stones were imported.

Yavanar referred to the Westerners, including the Greeks, Romans and West Asian people. Yavana derives from the Greek region of Ionia.

### Tamil Nadu to Red Sea Coast

An Indian jar with 7.5 kg of pepper, teak wood, a potsherd with Tamil-Brahmi inscription and Indian pottery have been



A bronze tiger with carnelian stones, Kodumanal



A bronze vessel from a megalithic burial Auroville, Puducherry



Glass beads from Porunthal excavations



A spindle whorl, Pattanam



Textile and spindle whorls from Kodumanal



Shell wastes of bangle craft production

discovered at Berenike, a port on the Red Sea coast of Egypt.

At Quseir al Qadhim, another port located north of Berenike on the Red Sea Coast, three Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions, *Panaiori*, *Kanan*, and *Cattan*, have been found on pottery discovered here.

Akanaanuru poem 149 describes the trading at the port of Muciri as follows:

“the well crafted ships of the Yavana came with gold returned with pepper at the wealthy port of Muciri”



(not to scale)

The trade route from Tamilagam to Rome.

A stone with the name “Perumpatankal” has been found at Khuan Luk Pat, Thailand. Southeast Asia was known as Suvarna Bhumi in Tamil literature. This stone was used by a person called Perumpattan, probably a goldsmith. It was a touchstone used to test the purity of gold.



Ceramic Jars from Tamilagam with preserved pepper, Berenike, Egypt



Pottery with the name “Cattan”



Perumpatankal, Kuan Luk Pat, Thailand

### 3.6 Emergence of towns and ports

The Sangam Age saw the first urbanization in Tamilagam. Cities developed and they had brick buildings, roof tiles, ring wells and planned towns, streets, and store houses. The towns worked as ports and artisanal centres. Arikamedu, Kaveripoompattinam, Azhagankulam and Korkai on the east coast and Pattanam in Kerala were port centres. Kanchipuram, Uraiyur, Karur, Madurai and Kodumanal were inland trade centres.

Many goods and commodities were produced in these centres and were exported to various regions. Though few in number,

large towns appeared in the Sangam Age. Small villages however were found in many areas. Bronze vessels, beads, shell bangles, glass beads, pottery with names of people written in Tamil-Brahmi script were found at these sites.

#### What is an urban centre?

A planned town with brick architecture and a proper layout. Urban centres have a larger population involved in non-agrarian, commercial and political occupations. Various industrial activities are seen in these towns.

#### Pattanam, Kerala

Pattanam is located near North Paravur in Vadakkekara village of Ernakulam district of Kerala. It was an ancient port town that had overseas connections with the western and eastern worlds.



Pottery sherds from West Asia



Turquoise glazed pottery, West Asia



Cameo blanks in Carnelian



Canoe excavated at Pattanam



Gold ornaments from Pattanam



### Kodumanal, Tamil Nadu

Kodumanal is located near Erode in Tamil Nadu and is identified with the Kodumanam of Pathittrupattu. Evidence of iron, stone bead and shell work, as well as megalithic burials have been discovered at this site. More than 300 pottery inscriptions in Tamil-Brahmi have also been found.



Excavated Megalithic Burial at Kodumanal



Iron objects (horse equipment) from Kodumanal



Shell bangle fragments and a conch, Kodumanal



Jar with writing in Brahmi



Carnelian beads, Kodumanal



Human skeleton from Kodumanal

### Keezhadi near Madurai, Tamil Nadu

Keezhadi is located near Silaimaan east of Madurai, on the highway to Rameswaram. In a large coconut garden, called Pallichandai Tidal, the Archaeological Survey of India excavated an ancient town dating to the Sangam Age. Archaeological excavations have produced evidence for brick buildings, drainage, Tamil-Brahmi inscription on pottery, beads of glass, carnelian and quartz, pearl, iron objects, games pieces, and antimony rods. Further excavation may shed light on the nature of the craft production and the cultural activities undertaken at this settlement.



Brick Structures at Keezhadi



A brick structure, Keezhadi

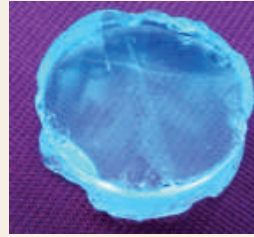




Furnace, Keezhadi



A brick built tank, Keezhadi



Crystal ear ornaments, Keezhadi



Various objects and ornaments from Keezhadi

### 3.7 Faith and Belief System

Like the diverse nature of the society and economy, the belief system of the Sangam Age was also diverse. It consisted of animism, ancestor worship, hero worship and worship of several deities.

*Tholkappiyam* lists the presiding deities of Kurunji, Mullai, Marutham, Neythal and Paalai landscapes, as Murugan, Thirumal, Indiran, Varunan and Kotravai, respectively.

However, people also worshipped natural forces and dead heroes, and ancestors. The force of anangu is mentioned in the literature which indicates the prevalence of animistic beliefs.

Jainism was present as evidenced by the caves with Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions. Performance of *Yagna* is also evidenced. Buddhism was also present in certain centres. Different groups practiced various forms of worship

### 3.8 Culture of Arts

Various art forms too existed in the Sangam Age. Performances of ritual dances called Veriyatal are referred to in the literature. Composition of poems, playing of music instruments and dances were also known. The literature mentions the fine variety of cuisine of the Sangam Age. People took care of their appearance and evidence of antimony rods (kohl sticks) made of copper has been found in archaeological sites. They were used by women for decorating their eyebrows.



Antimony rods (kohlsticks)  
were made of bronze



Copper rods used for decorating eyelashes

### Tamil-Brahmi Script

used in the Sangam Age for writing the Tamil Language

	அ	இ	ஓ	ஈ	உ	ஊ	எ	ஏ	ஐ	ஒ	ஔ		அ	இ	ஓ	ஈ	உ	ஊ	எ	ஏ	ஐ	ஒ	ஔ	ஃ
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த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த	த
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ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப	ப

### Recap

- Primary production and exchange and social relationships in the landscapes and mercantile activities across the seas led to urbanization and development of culture paving way for the development of literature during this period.
- The texts were compiled through the Tamil Academies (Sangam) at a later date.
- The Thinaï concept is a distinct classification of land and people as elaborated in *Tholkappiyam*.
- The Sangam age witnessed the transition from tribal society to kingdom-centred polities.
- Sea borne trade with the Indian Ocean regions developed.
- Large towns with buildings made of bricks appeared in Tamil country.
- The society was diverse in nature.



## Timeline

ca. 1300 BC (BCE) to 300 BC (BCE)	Iron Age or Megalithic Period
ca. 300 BC (BCE) to 300 AD (CE).	Early Historic Period / Sangam Age / Sangam Literature
ca. 400 BC (BCE) to 300 BC (BCE)	Introduction of Tamil-Brahmi Script
1st Century AD (CE)	Periplus of Erythrean Sea
1st Century AD (CE)	Pliny's Natural History
2 <sup>nd</sup> Century AD (CE)	Ptolemy's Geography
2 <sup>nd</sup> Century AD (CE)	Vienna Papyrus G 40822
ca. 300 AD (CE) to 500 AD (CE)	Post Sangam Age



### EXERCISE



#### I. Choose the correct Answer:

- The name of the script used in the Sangam Age
  - English
  - Devanagari
  - Tamil-Brahmi
  - Granta
- The Sri Lankan chronicle composed in the Pali language mentioning about merchants and horse traders from Tamil Nadu
  - Deepa vamsa
  - Arthasastra
  - Mahavamsa
  - Indica
- The notable Chola king credited with bringing forest lands under the plough and developing irrigational facilities
  - Karikalan
  - Rajarajan I
  - Kulothungan
  - Rajendran I
- Inscription that mentions the Cheras
  - Pugalur
  - Girnar
  - Pulimankombai
  - Madurai
- The famous Venetian traveller who described Kayal as a great and noble city
  - Vasco da gama
  - Alberuni
  - Marco Polo
  - Megasthenes
- Coins as a medium of exchange were introduced for the first time in the Sangam Age.
  - Prakrit was the language used by the common people in Northern India during the Mauryan period.
  - Vienna Papyrus, a Roman document, mentions trade related to Muziri.
  - The concept of Thinaï is presented in the Tamil grammar work of Pathupaattu.
  - (i) is correct
  - (ii) is correct
  - (i) and (ii) is correct
  - (iii) and (iv) is correct



7. (i) Pathitru Pathu speaks about the Pandya kings and their territory.  
(ii) The Akanaanuru describes the trading activities at Kaveripoompattinam.  
(iii) The Chola Emblem was the tiger and they issued square copper coins with images of a tiger.  
(iv) Neythal is a sandy desert region.
- a) (i) is correct  
b) (ii) and (iii) is correct  
c) (iii) is correct  
d) (iv) is correct

## II. Fill in the blanks

- \_\_\_\_\_ are documents scripted on stones, copper plates, coins and rings
- \_\_\_\_\_ refers to systematically digging a site to recover material evidence for exploring societies of the past
- \_\_\_\_\_ the classic work on economy and statecraft authored by Kautilya during the Mauryan period.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a poetic theme which means a class or category and refers to a habitat or eco-zone with specific physiographical characteristics.
- \_\_\_\_\_ referred to the Westerners, including the Greeks, Romans and West Asian people.

## III. Find out the correct statement

- a) Evidence of iron smelting has been found in Kodumanal and Guttur.  
b) Periplus of Erythraean Sea mentions about the pepper trade with India.  
c) Punch marked coins are the earliest coins used in India mostly made of gold.  
d) The Sangam Age has its roots in the Bronze Age.
- a) The Cheras ruled over Kaveri delta and their capital was Uraiyur.  
b) The Maangulam Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions mention the King Karikalan.

- c) The terms Vanikan and Nigama appear in Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions were different types of merchants.  
d) Salt merchants were called Vanikars and they travelled in bullock carts along with their family

## IV. Match the following

- Epigraphy - a narrative text presenting the important historical events
- Chronicle - a Sangam Age port
- Pastoralism - an ornament made in precious stone.
- Cameo - the study of inscriptions
- Arikkamedu - nomadic people earning livelihood by rearing cattle.

## V. Answer the following questions briefly

- Archaeological sites provide evidence of past history - Discuss.
- How important are coins as a source of evidence for the study of Sangam Age?
- Agriculture was one of the main sources of subsistence in Sangam Age. Give reasons.
- Overseas interactions brought glory to ancient Tamilagam. Give examples in support.

## VI. Answer all the questions given under each caption

- Hero Stones:
  - What was the common practice in a pastoral society?
  - Who plundered the cattle wealth of enemies?
  - How were the dead warriors remembered?
  - Which Tamil text describes the procedures for erecting hero stones?



## 2. Non - Tamil Sources (Foreign Accounts)

- What does the presence of the non-Tamil sources reveal?
- Name the classic work of the Mauryan period that makes a mention that the pearl and shells came from Pandya country.
- What is a chronicle?
- Who speaks about the pepper trade between Roman empire and India?

## 3. Industries and Crafts of the Sangam Age

- What were the important aspects of urbanisation?
- What is the Tamil name for a potter?
- What were the different types of pottery used by the people?
- Identify the Iron implements required for agriculture and warfare

## VII. Answer the following in detail

- To what extent do you think the political powers of Tamilagam influenced Sangam Age polity?
- Indicate how the industries and crafts of the Sangam Age contribute to their economy.

## FUN WITH HISTORY

### Student Activities

Mark on the map of south India, the ancient Tamilagam and the territories of Tamil kingdoms. Visit a museum and collect information about inscriptions, coins and instruments used by the ancient people.

Visit the early historic sites of Arikamedu, Kaveripoompattinam, Keezhadi etc.,

Conduct a study on materials excavated from prehistoric sites and on Tamil - Brahmi script.

### Assignment with teacher's guidance

A power-point presentation on the origin of human life



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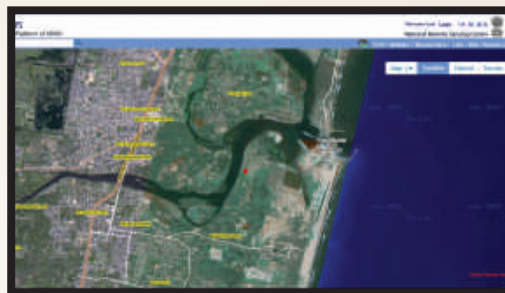
## INTERNET RESOURCES



## ICT CORNER

### Finding Arikamedu

Let's Find



#### Steps

1. Type the given URL in browser or scan the QR code.
2. Click 'Bhuvan 2D'.
3. Type Arikamedu in search box. Click 'Search' button or press the 'Enter key'.
4. Select the 'Satellite' option given at the right side to watch the area in satellite view. Click '+' or '-' signs given at the left side to zoom in or 'zoom out'.

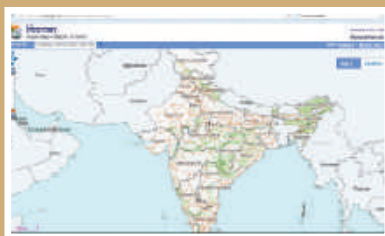
Step 1



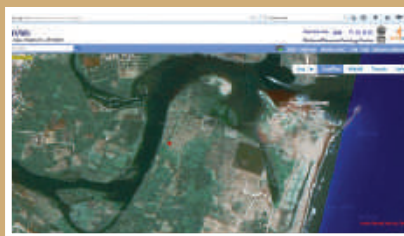
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Step 3



Step 4





# UNIT 4

## Intellectual Awakening and Socio-Political Changes

### Learning Objectives

- To understand the transition of society from 6th century to 2nd century BC (BCE)
- To familiarise ourselves with the essence of new religious faiths: Buddhism, Jainism and Ajivika in India, Zoroastrianism in Persia, and Confucianism and Taoism in China
- To become aware of the circumstances that led to the formation of states with a focus on Magadha Empire
- To understand the socio-political changes of the pre-Mauryan and Mauryan states



### Introduction

A new civilisation began to develop in northern India, with the revival of trade and urbanization during the sixth century BC (BCE). In this period of major political and social changes in north India, Buddha and Mahavira were born. In the century following their death, Buddhism and Jainism took root as major religions in India. This meant that new religious orders were coming up with many followers, propagating new beliefs and philosophies. Similarly Zoroastrianism in Persia and Confucianism and Taoism in China became popular during this period.

#### 4.1 Religion in the Sixth Century BC (BCE)

The new civilisations that emerged in the new Iron Age had certain common features. They were characterised by the proliferation of new crafts, growth of long-distance trade, building of cities and towns, rise of universalistic religions and evolution of a code of conduct. Sixth century BC (BCE) was, therefore, a period of exceptional development

in all spheres of life such as material, cultural and intellectual. About this time, we find that a number of prominent men, great thinkers and founders of new religions lived, making it a period of great historical importance. Philosophical and religious thinkers such as Confucius in China, Zoroaster in Iran and Mahavira and Buddha in India gained popularity in sixth century BC (BCE).

#### 4.2 Confucianism and Taoism

In the sixth century BC (BCE), two great thinkers were born in China: Confucius and Lao-Tse. They laid down the systems of morals and social behaviour for individuals and communities. But after their death, temples were built in their memory and the philosophy they taught was developed into a religion. Known as Confucianism and Taoism respectively, their books were held in great reverence in China. Confucianism exerted a big influence on not only the political class of China but also on the common people.



## Confucius (551–478 BC (BCE))

Confucius was born in the Shantung province of China in 551 BC (BCE). He studied history, poetry, philosophy and music. He is the author of five important works: (1) *The Book of Records*, which is chiefly ethical, providing guidelines for the regulation of human society; (2) *The Book of Odes*, illustrating the sound principles of morality in songs; (3) *The Book of Changes* dealing with metaphysics; (4) *The Spring and Autumn Annals*, a code of political morality; and (5) *The Book of History* narrating the events and legends of the early religions of China.



Confucius

## Five Cardinal Principles of Confucius' Ethics

1. Humaneness
2. Righteousness
3. Propriety;
4. Wisdom
5. Trustworthiness

Confucius said that wisdom grows from the family, and that the foundation of society is the disciplined individual in an orderly family. The superior man, according to him, is not merely intelligent or scholarly, but his character should be exemplary. The superior man of Confucius possesses three virtues: intelligence, courage and goodwill. Though Confucius insisted on children obeying parents and wife her husband, he also clearly proposed that "when the command is wrong a son should resist his father and a minister

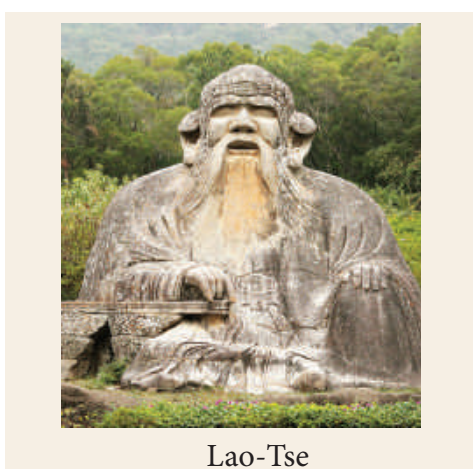
should resist the prince.” When asked about government, he said that there are three requisites for it: “There should be sufficiency of food, sufficiency of military equipment and confidence of the people in their ruler.”

### Taoism

Lao-Tse, the greatest of the pre-Confucian philosophers, was 53 years older than Confucius. Lao-Tse was born in 604 BC (BCE). Disgusted with the intrigues of politicians and the prevailing corruption of his time, he left China to live in a peaceful abode. Lao-Tse wrote a book in two parts, running into 5,000 words. He then disappeared from the place and no one knew where he died. His book *Tao Teh Ching* is a guide to the conduct of life.

### Teachings of Lao-Tse (Taoism)

- The cause of human unhappiness in the world is human selfishness. Selfishness creates unlimited human desires, which can never be satisfied.
- In nature, all the things act in a natural way. The law of human conduct must correspond with nature.



Lao-Tse

- Humans live a life under the regulation of someone. This is because they have acquired knowledge and have not remained innocent. On the basis of their acquired knowledge, they have built up an urban civilisation and have made themselves unhappy.

## 4.3 Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrianism is one of the oldest of the revealed world religions. It remained as the state religion of three great Iranian empires, which flourished from the 6th century BC (BCE) and dominated much of the Middle East. Zoroaster of Persia is the founder of Zoroastrianism. Zoroaster was pained to find his people worshipping primitive deities. He revolted against it and proclaimed to the world that there is one god, Ahura Mazda (the Lord of Light).

The holy book of Zoroastrians is *Zend Avesta*. It is a collection of sacred literature of different epochs, containing religious hymns, invocations, prayers, confessions, laws, myths and sacred reminiscences. The doctrines and rituals of the Zoroastrians have much similarity to those of the Vedas.

### Teachings

Zoroaster taught that the great object of religion, state or society is the cultivation of morality. The highest religious conception is purity of thought, word and deed. He asserted that Ahura Mazda has seven qualities: (1) light; (2) good mind; (3) right; (4) dominion; (5) piety; (6) well-being; and (7) immortality. Ahura Mazda is omniscient (knows everything), omnipotent (all powerful) and omnipresent (is everywhere). In Zoroastrianism, sacrifice and image worship were discarded. Fire was worshipped as a symbol of the deity and considered the highest form of worship. Charity was made an essential part of religion, and service to the poor was particularly emphasised.

## 4.4 Impact of Iron Technology in India

In the Gangetic valley, people learnt to produce crops more than that was required for subsistence. So, another section of people took up some professional crafts as their livelihood. Like the farmers, these craftsmen also had



to rely on a group of people who collected raw materials and distributed the craft products. Early urbanisation happened in two ways. One was as a result of some villages specialising in black smithy, pottery, carpentry, cloth weaving and the like. The other was on account of the congregation of specialised craftsmen in villages close to where the raw materials were available and where markets were present. Such a concentration enabled villages to evolve into towns and exchange centres. Vaisali, Shravasti, Rajagriha, Kausambi and Kashi were some significant commercial centres of the Gangetic plain.

#### 4.5 Religion: Post-Rig Vedic

Three more Vedas –Yajur, Sama and Atharva –were composed after the Rig Veda. Manuals of rituals called *Brahmanas*, specifying rhyming words to be sung, and two commentaries on certain Rig Vedic hymns called *Aranyakas*, containing knowledge to be learnt secretly in the forest, and the Upanishads, were compiled in the upper Gangetic plain during 1000–600 BC (BCE).



#### 4.6 Jainism and Buddhism

In the Gangetic plain, iron plough agriculture required the use of bullocks. But the indiscriminate killing of cattle for Vedic rituals and sacrifices caused resentment. The founders of Jainism and Buddhism did not prescribe killing as a religious rite. They secured their livelihood mostly by alms. Celibacy and abstinence from holding property made the new teachers much more acceptable than the Brahman priests. The people's resentment about the expensive and elaborate Vedic rituals, animal sacrifice and the desire for wealth eventually took them towards Jainism and Buddhism.

Mahavira and Buddha lived a life of purity and exemplified simplicity and self-denial. They lived in the times of Bimbisara and Ajatashatru, the famous kings of Magadha. The commercial development of the northern cities like Kaushambi, Kushinagara, Benaras, Vaishali and Rajagriha added importance to the Vaishyas who turned to Buddhism and Jainism in their eagerness to improve their social status.

### Jainism

#### Mahavira: Birth and Life

Vardhamana Mahavira was born in 599 BC (BCE) at Kundagrama near Vaishali. His mother was Trishala, a Lichchavi princess. He spent his early life as a prince and was married to a princess named Yashoda. The couple had a daughter. At the age of thirty, he left his home and became an ascetic. For over twelve years, Mahavira wandered from place to place, subjecting himself to severe penance and self-mortification. In the thirteenth year of his asceticism, he acquired the highest knowledge and came to be known as Jaina (the conqueror) and Mahavira (great hero). Jains believe that Mahavira came in



Mahavira

a long line of Tirthankaras and he was the twenty fourth and the last of them. Rishabha was the first Tirthankara and Parshvanath the penultimate or the twenty third. Mahavira travelled extensively as a preacher in the kingdoms of Magadha, Videha and Anga. Magadha rulers Bimbisara and Ajatashatru were influenced by his teachings. Thousands of people became his followers. After 30 years of preaching, Mahavira died at Pawapuri in 527 BC (BCE) at the age of seventy two.



The statue of Bahubali (known as Gomateswara, 57 feet)

at Shravanabelgola in Karnataka is the tallest Jain statue ever carved out in India.



Bahubali

## Teachings of Mahavira

The three principles of Jainism, also known as Tri-ratnas, are the following:

1. Right faith: Belief in the teachings and wisdom of Mahavira.
2. Right knowledge: Acceptance of the theory that there is no God and that the world existed without a creator.
3. Right action: It refers to the Mahavira's observance of the five great vows: (a) ahimsa, (b) honesty, (c) kindness, (d) truthfulness and (e) not coveting or desiring things belonging to others.

## Spread of Jainism

In order to spread his new faith, Mahavira founded monasteries. The Jain monks who led a very austere life. In North India, this new faith was patronised by rulers such as Dhana Nanda, Chadragupta Maurya and Kharavela. There was a notable followers of Jainism in Karnataka and western India during the 4th century BC (BCE). Jainism encouraged the public spirit among all who embraced it. Varna system practiced by Brahmins was challenged. People were spared from the costly and elaborate rituals and sacrifices. Mahavira believed that all objects, both animate and inanimate, have souls and various degrees of consciousness. They possess life and feel pain when they are injured.

## Split in Jainism

In course of time, Jainism split into two branches, namely the Digambaras (sky-clad) and the Svetambaras (white-clad).

## Decline of Jainism

The lack of royal patronage, its severity, factionalism and spread of Buddhism led to the decline of Jainism in India.



**Jaina Kanchi :** Jainism was one of the major faiths in the Tamil region during the 7th century AD (CE). The Pallava king, Mahendravarman was a Jain. Under the influence of Appar he got converted to Saivism. Close to the present town of Kanchi there is a place called Jaina Kanchi where you find many Jain temples. One of the important temples is the Thiruparuthikundram temple, where the ceiling is painted with the life story of Mahavira.

## Buddhism

### Gautama Buddha: Birth and Life

Gautama Buddha was the son of Suddhodana, the chief of a Kshatriya clan of the Sakyas of Kapilavastu in present-day Nepal. His given name was Siddhartha. As he belonged to the Sakya clan, he was also known as 'Sakya Muni'. He was born in 567 BC (BCE) in Lumbini Garden, near Kapilavastu. His mother, Mayadevi (Mahamaya), died after a few days of his birth and he was brought up by his step-mother. In order to divert his attention towards worldly affairs, his father got him married at the age of sixteen to a princess called Yashodhara. He led a happy married life for some time and



Gautama Buddha

had a son by name Rahula.

One evening, while Siddhartha was passing through the city, he came across an old man who had been abandoned by his relatives, a sick man crying with pain and a dead body surrounded by weeping relatives. Siddhartha

was deeply moved by these sights. He also saw an ascetic who had renounced the world and found no sign of sorrows. These 'Four Great Sights' prompted him to renounce the world and search for the cause of suffering. In 537 BC (BCE), he left his palace and went into the forest in search of truth. In the course of his wanderings, he sat under a peepal tree for several days until he attained enlightenment. The place where he attained enlightenment, the Mahabodhi temple, still exists in Bodh Gaya (Bihar).

After his enlightenment, Buddha decided to impart his knowledge to the people. He went to Varanasi and gave his first sermon at Saranath. He preached in the kingdoms of Magadha and Kosala. A large number of people became his followers including his own family. After forty five years of preaching, he breathed his last in 487 BC (BCE) at Kushinagar (near Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh) at the age of eighty.

## Teachings of Buddhism

- (i) **Four Great Truths:** (1) There is suffering and sorrow in this world. (2) The cause of human suffering is desire and craving. (3) This pain or sorrow can be removed by suppressing desire and craving. (4) This is to be achieved by leading a disciplined life or by following what Buddha called the 'Noble Eight-fold Path'.

- (ii) **Attainment of Nirvana:** According to Buddha, a person should aim at attainment of nirvana or the highest bliss, and it could be achieved by any person by leading a virtuous life and by following the Noble Eight-fold Path.

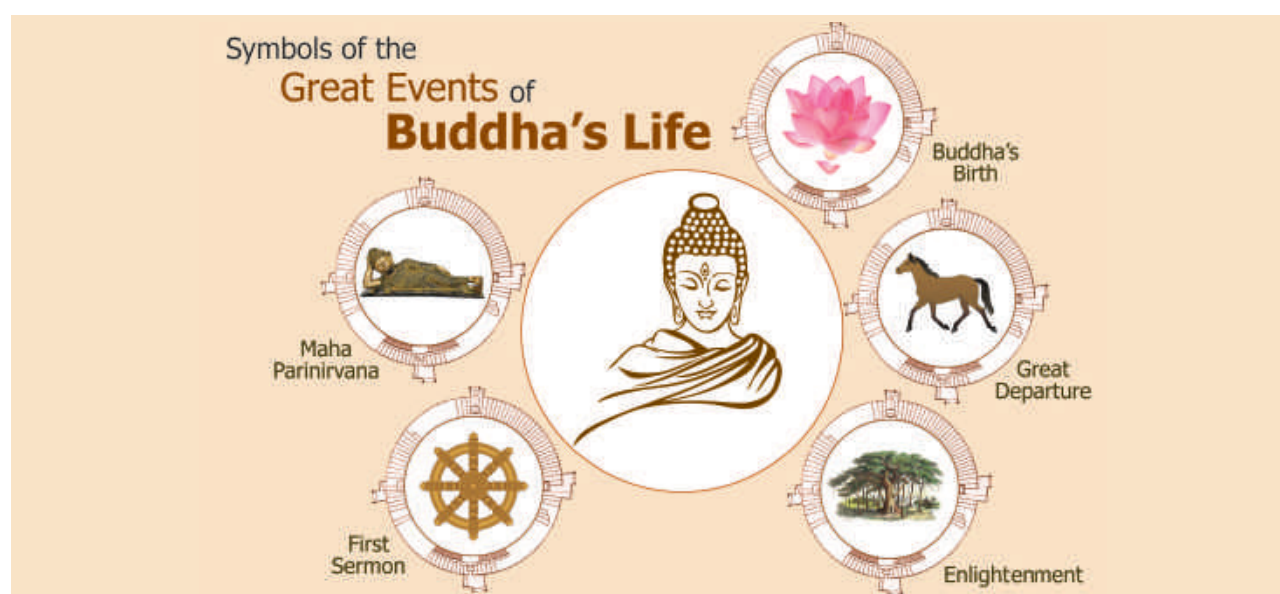
- (iii) **The Noble Eight-fold Path:** Buddha preached a new path to attain the purest state of mind: (1) right views, (2) right aspirations, (3) right speech, (4) right action, (5) right livelihood, (6) right effort, (7) right mindfulness and (8) right contemplations or meditation. Buddha preached that he who practices the eight-fold path can attain the highest and purest state of mind.

## Spread of Buddhism

Buddha, in order to carry his message to different parts of India, established the Buddhist *sangha* or the Holy Order of Monks. The *bikshus* (monks) and the *bikshunis* (nuns) were enlisted for spreading the faith and they were required to lead a life of purity and poverty. Buddhism spread to Central Asia, Sri Lanka, Tibet, Southeast Asia, as well as the eastern countries of China, Mongolia, Korea, Japan and Vietnam.

## The Split in Buddhism

During the reign of Kanishka, the Buddhist monk Nagarjuna initiated reforms





in the way Buddhism was being followed. As a result, Buddhism was split into two as *Hinayana* and *Mahayana*.

- (i) The **Hinayana** (Lesser Vehicle) was the original creed preached by Buddha. The followers of this form regarded Buddha as their guru and did not worship him as God. They denied idol worship and continued with the people's language, Pali.

**DO YOU KNOW?** When Buddha's closest disciple Ananda asked Buddha whether women can become monks. Buddha said, Yes, if women can follow the path of renunciation, they can become monks and completely enlightened just as men.

- (ii) In **Mahayana** (Greater Vehicle), Buddha was worshipped as God and Bodhisattva as his previous avatar. The followers made images and statues of Buddha and Bodhisattva and offered prayers, and recited hymns (**mantras**) in their praise. Later, they wrote their religious books in Sanskrit. This form of Buddhism was patronised by Kanishka.

## Decline of Buddhism

Buddhism declined in India due to the following reasons:

1. Buddhism was popular in the beginning because it was preached in people's language (Pali). The later texts were written in Sanskrit, which was difficult for the common people to understand.
2. The split in Buddhism into Hinayana and Mahayana was another vital reason. Image worship in Mahayana made no difference between Hinduism and Buddhism.
3. Buddhism lost its royal patronage during the reign of Guptas.
4. Further, the invasions of Huns and Turks almost wiped out Buddhism.

## 4.7 Other Heterodox Sect

### Ajivika

The period that produced Buddhism and Jainism also witnessed the birth of a sect known as Ajivika. Its founder was Gosala (Maskariputra Gosala), a friend of Mahavira. For some time, they were together. Later, Gosala moved away and founded the Ajivika sect. As an atheistic sect, Ajivikas rejected the karma theory, which postulated that the condition of men is determined by their past actions. Gosala argued that acts of charity and piety can, in no way, influence this finality.

Ajivikas had a small presence in southern India. Under the Cholas, a special tax was levied on them. Three Tamil texts, the *Manimekalai* of Buddhists, the *Nilakesi* of Jains and the *Sivajnanasiddhiyar* of Saivites, contain the outlines of Ajivika doctrine.

### Gana-sanghas

There were two distinct forms of government at the time of Mahavira and Buddha: monarchical kingdom and clan oligarchies or *Gana-sanghas*. The Gana-sanghas provided a polity alternative to the kingdoms. Vedic rituals and the rules of *varna* were not followed. The Gana-sanghas consisted of either a single clan, such as the Shakyas, Koliyas and Mallas, or a confederacy of clans, such as the Vrijjis and the Vrishnis (a confederacy located at Vaisali). The Gana-sanghas had only two strata: the Kshatriya rajakula, ruling families, and the dasa-karmakara, the slaves and labourers.

## 4.8 Rise of Kingdoms

The 6th century BC (BCE) witnessed the establishment of kingdoms, oligarchies and chiefdoms as well as the emergence of towns. From the largest of the chiefdoms emerged kingdoms. Many tribes of Rig Vedic period such as Bharatas, Pasus, Tritsus and Turvasas passed into oblivion and new tribes such as the Kurus and Panchalas rose into prominence. Sixteen *mahajanapadas* are listed in the Buddhist texts.



Linguistic and cultural commonality prevailed in the *janapadas*, whereas in the *mahajanapadas*, different social and cultural groups lived. With the emergence of kingdoms, the struggle for supremacy among different states occurred frequently. Sacrifices such as Rajasuya and Asvamedha were performed to signify the imperial sway of monarchs over their rivals. The Rig Vedic title of 'Rajan' was replaced by impressive titles such as Samrat, Ekrat, Virat or Bhoja.

Northern India extended from the Kabul Valley in the north to the Godavari in the South. It witnessed the rise of sixteen states known as *Mahajanapadas* or sixteen great states: Kasi, Kosla, Anga, Magadha, Vajji, Malla, Chedi, Vatsa, Kuru, Panchala, Matsya, Surasena, Assaka, Avanti, Gandhara and Kamboja.

### Growth of Royal Power

The king enjoyed absolute power. The *sabha* of the Rig Vedic period ceased to exist. The king sought the aid and support of the *samiti* on matters like war, peace and fiscal policies. However, in spite of the existence of the assemblies, the power of the king kept increasing. The *Satapatha Brahmana* describes the king as infallible and immune from all punishments. The growth of royal power was reflected in the enlarged administrative structure. The king was now assisted by a group of officers such as *Bhugadugha* (collector of taxes), *Suta* (charioteer), the *Aksharapa* (superintendent of gambling), *Kshattri* (chamberlain), *Gorikartana* (king's companion in the chase), *Palogola* (courtier), *Takshan* (carpenter) and *Rathakara* (chariotmaker). In addition, there were the ecclesiastical and military officials like the *Purohita* (chaplain), the *Senani* (army general) and the *Gramani* (leader of the village). In the later Vedic period, Gramani, who acted both a civil and military officer, was the link through which the royal authority was enforced in the village. The king administered justice and occasionally delegated

his judicial power to *Adhyakshas* (royal officials). In the villages, *Gramyavadin* (village judge) and *Sabha* (court) decided the cases. Punishments for crimes were severe.

### The Rise of Magadha Kingdom

The polity followed in kingdoms was different from that of gana-sanghas. Kingdoms operated with a centralised government. Political power was concentrated in the ruling family, which had become a dynasty, with succession becoming hereditary. There were advisory bodies such as *parishad* (ministers) and *sabha* (advisory council). The *sabha* collected the revenue and remitted it to the treasury in the capital of the kingdom, from where it was redistributed for the public expenses, such as maintenance of army and salaries to state officials.

Of the kingdoms mentioned in the literature of the period, Kashi, Kosala and Magadha are considered to be powerful. The only republic that rivalled these kingdoms was the Vrijiis, whose capital was Vaisali. In the struggle for control for the Gangetic Plain, which had strategic and economic advantages, the Magadha kingdom emerged victorious. Bimbisara was the first important king of Magadha. Through matrimonial alliances with the high-status Lichchavi clan of Vaishali and the ruling family in Kosala, Bimbisara went on to conquer Anga (in West Bengal now), thereby gaining access to the Ganges delta.

Bimbisara succeeded in establishing a comprehensive structure of administration. Village was the basic unit of his administrative system. Apart from villages (*gramas*), there were fields and pastures as well as wasteland and the forests (*aranya*, *khetra* and *vana*). Each village was brought under a *gramani* (headman), who was responsible for collecting taxes and remitting them to the state treasury. Officers appointed to measure the land under cultivation and assess the value of crop were to assist the *gramani* in his task. Land tax (*bali*) was the main source of revenue to the kingdom and the share of the produce (*bhaga*) was determined

proportionate to the extent of land cultivated. The term *shadbhagin* – one who is entitled to a share of one-sixth – referred to the king. Thus, a peasant economy came into being at Magadha.



Iron plough agriculture led to the rise of empires Assiriyian in Iran and Magadha in India.

Ajatashatru, the son of Bimbisara, is said to have murdered his father and ascended the throne in 493 BC (BCE). He continued his father's policy of expansion through military conquests. The capital city of Magadha was Rajagriha, which was surrounded by five hills, providing protection to the kingdom from external threats. Ajatashatru strengthened the Rajagriha fort and also built another fort at Pataligrama on the Ganges. It served as the exchange centre for the local produce and later became the Mauryan capital of Pataliputra. Ajatashatru died in 461 BC (BCE) and he was succeeded by five kings. All of them followed the example of Ajatashatru by ascending the throne by killing their parent. Fed up with such recurring instances, people of Magadha appointed the last ruler's viceroy Shishunaga as the king. After ruling nearly for half a century, the Shishunaga dynasty lost the kingdom to Mahapadma Nanda who founded the Nanda dynasty. The Nandas were the first of non-kshatriya dynasties to rule in northern India.

## 4.9 Mauryan Empire: State and Society

### Mauryan Kings

Vishnugupta, who was later known as Chanakya or Kautilya, fell out with the Nanda king and vowed to dethrone him. Chandragupta perhaps inspired by Alexander of Macedonia, was raising an army and looking for opportunities to establish a kingdom of his own. On hearing the news of Alexander's death, Chandragupta stirred up the people and with their help drove away the Greek garrison that Alexander had left at Taxila. Then he and his allies marched to Pataliputra

and defeated the Nanda king in 321 BC (BCE). Thus began the reign of the Mauryan dynasty.

During Chandragupta's reign, Seleucus, the general of Alexander, who had control over

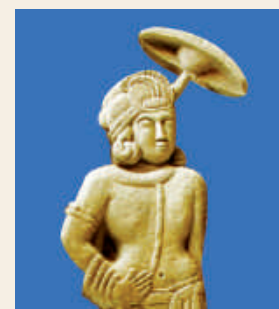


Chandragupta Maurya

countries from Asia Minor to India, crossed the Indus only to be defeated by Chandragupta. Seleucus's envoy, Megasthenes, is said to have remained in India and his account titled *Indica* is a useful record about Mauryan polity and society.

After gaining control over the Gangetic plain, Chandragupta turned his attention to north-west to take advantage of the void created by Alexander's demise. These areas comprising the present-day Afghanistan, Baluchistan and Makran surrendered without any resistance. Thereupon Chandragupta moved to Central India. According to Jaina tradition, towards the end of his life, Chandragupta, who had by now become an ardent follower of Jainism, abdicated his throne in favour of his son Bindusara.

Bindusara, during his rule, succeeded in extending the Mauryan empire upto Karnataka. At the time of his death, a large part of the subcontinent had come under Mauryan suzerainty. Ashoka succeeded Bindusara in 268 BC (BCE). Desirous of bringing the remaining parts of South India into his empire, Ashoka waged a war against Kalinga in the eighth year of his reign. The people of Kalinga fought bravely, but they were defeated after a large-scale slaughter. This war and slaughter affected Ashoka so much that he decided to give up war. Ashoka became



Emperor Ashoka

an ardent Buddhist after meeting the Buddhist monk Upagupta and propounded his Dharma. The only true conquest, he proclaimed, is the conquest of self and the conquest of men's hearts by the *dhamma* (Pali) or *dharma* (Sanskrit). He issued edicts, which were carved out in the rock.

There are 33 edicts, including 14 major rock edicts, 7 pillar edicts and 2 Kalinga edicts, apart from Minor Rock edicts and Minor Pillar inscriptions. They form the reliable sources to know about the Mauryan Empire, in particular the dharmic rule of Ashoka.

In one of his Kalinga edicts, he tells us his horror and sorrow over the deaths which the war and conquest caused. In yet another edict, he makes it known that Ashoka would not tolerate any longer the death or captivity of even hundredth or thousandth part of the number killed and made captive in Kalinga.

Ashoka's passion for protecting life extended to animals as well. Hospitals were constructed for them and animal sacrifice was forbidden. Ashoka sent his son Mahendra and his daughter Sanghamitra to Ceylon to spread his message of Dharma there. Ashoka died after ruling for 38 years.

Our national emblem with four lions is a replica of the Ashoka Pillar of Saranath.

## Mauryan Administration

The Mauryan state in its early years undertook some measures that were positive for the development of society. The state raised taxes to finance a huge standing army and a vast bureaucracy. The Mauryans had

evolved a very efficient system of governance. The king, as the head of the administration, was assisted by a council of ministers. There were *mahamatriyas*, who functioned as secretaries to the ministers. The person in charge of revenue and expenditure was *samaharta*. The empire was divided into four provinces and these provinces were administered by governors, who were usually princes or from the royal family.



The district was under a *sthanika*, while *gopas* were in charge of five to ten villages. The municipal (Pataliputra) administration was under a *nagaraka*. Six committees with five members each carried on their duties under him.

- They were to take care of the foreigners.
- To register the birth and death of the citizens
- To look after trade and commerce,
- To supervise different manufactures
- To collect excise duties and custom duties

Like the city or town administration, the military department was also managed by a board of 30 members, split into six committees, with five members in each of them. At the village level, there was *gramani*, whose responsibility was maintaining the boundaries, keeping the records of land and a census of population and livestock. In order to keep a vigil over the entire administration, including the conduct of officers, a well-knit spy system was evolved and put in place. Justice was administered through well-established courts in all major towns and cities. Punishment for crimes was severe.



Chandragupta's minister Chanakya is credited with a book titled *Arthashastra*, which gives a detailed account of the Mauryan administration.



The state used the surplus appropriated for the development of the rural economy by founding new settlements, granting land and encouraging the people to settle as farmers. It also organised irrigation projects and controlled the distribution of water. There was state control of agriculture, mining, industry and trade. The state discouraged the emergence of private property in land and banned its sale. The Mauryan state gave further boost to urban development. It secured land trade routes to Iran and Mesopotamia, as well as to the kingdoms of northern China. *Arthashastra* refers to Kasi (Benares), Vanga (Bengal), Kamarupa (Assam) and Madurai as textile centres. The distribution of black polished ware of northern India as far as South India is indicative of the extent of trade during the Mauryan rule. Trade contributed to urbanisation in a big way. New cities such as Kaushambi, Bhita, Vaishali and Rajagriha had sprung up in the *doab* region.

### Educational Centres

Monasteries and temples served the purpose of imparting education. Nalanda was a great monastery built by the Magadha Empire. Educational centres offered Buddhist and Vedic literature, logic, grammar, medicine, philosophy and astronomy. Even the science of war was taught. Nalanda became the most renowned seat of learning in course of time. It was supported by the revenues of 100 villages. No fees were charged to the students and they were provided free board and lodging.



Nalanda University

### Recap

- Sixth century BC (BCE) was a period of material, cultural and intellectual development.
- Confucius' ethics in China and Zoroastrian religion in Persia, Mahavira's Tri-ratnas and Buddha's eight-fold path in India created a new awakening and provided a moral code of conduct to humanity.
- Sixth century BC (BCE) was also a period that witnessed the rise of Mahajanapadas. The sixteen such chiefdoms are listed with the focus on Magadha as a powerful kingdom.
- The Mauryan dynasty was founded by Chandragupta Maurya with the aid of Chanakya.
- The Mauryan administration and the greatness of Ashoka with particular reference to his dhamma is highlighted.



### EXERCISE



#### I. Choose the correct answer

1. Identify the founder of a new sect who exemplified simplicity and self-denial.  
(a) Buddha (b) Lao-tze  
(c) Confucius (d) Zoroaster
2. The Magadha king influenced by the teachings of Mahavira  
(a) Dhananandha  
(b) Chandragupta  
(c) Bimbisara  
(d) Shishunaga



3. The northern India extended from the Kabul Valley in the north to the Godavari in the south witnessed the rise of Sixteen States.
- (a) Mahajanapadas  
(b) Gana-sanghas  
(b) Dravida  
(d) Dakshinapatha
4. Tri-ratnas are the three principles taught by
- (a) Buddha  
(b) Mahavira  
(c) Lao-tze  
(d) Confucius
5. The account which throws light on Mauryan polity and society
- (a) Marco Polo  
(b) Fahien  
(c) Megasthenes  
(d) Seleucus
6. (i) Under the Magadha king the mahamatryias functioned as secretaries to the ministers.  
(ii) Accounts of Megasthenes titled Indica is a useful record about Mauryan polity and society.  
(iii) Nanda's attempt to build an imperial structure was cut short by Ashoka who founded the Mauryan kingdom.  
(iv) According to tradition, towards the end of his life Chandragupta become an ardent follower of Buddhism.
- a) (i) is correct  
b) (ii) is correct  
c) (i) and (ii) is correct  
d) (iii) and (iv) is correct

## II. Fill in the blanks

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is a collection of sacred literature of different epochs, containing prayers, confessions and myths.
2. In the Gangetic plain \_\_\_\_\_ agriculture required the use of bullocks.
3. Jains believe that \_\_\_\_\_ came in a long line of Tirthankaras and he was the twenty - fourth and the last.
4. The place where Buddha attained enlightenment has been built into the Mahabodhi temple that still exists in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The rock edicts form the reliable source to know about the Mauryan empire in particular the Dharmic rule of \_\_\_\_\_.

## III. Find out the correct statement

1. a) The introduction of Bronze tools made easy the removal of dense forest cover from the banks of the Ganges.  
b) Ajivikas had a small presence in western India.  
c) The clusters where particular clansmen were dominant came to be known were Pre-Mauryan states.  
d) Of the kingdoms mentioned in the literature of the period Kashi, Kosala and Magadha are considered to be powerful.
2. a) Ajatashatru was the first important king of Magadha.  
b) Bimbisara succeeded in establishing a comprehensive structure of administration.  
c) The Mauryas were the first of non-Kshatriya dynasties to rule in northern India.  
d) Nanda's attempt to build an imperial structure was cut short by Ashoka.



#### IV. Match the following

1. Eight-fold path - tallest Jaina statue
2. Bahubali - a code of political morality
3. The Spring and Autumn Annals - sacred literature of laws and myths
4. Zend Avesta - first Tirthankara
5. Rishabha - path to attain the purest state of mind

#### V. Answer the following briefly

1. Write about Hinayana and Mahayana.
2. Elaborate the term "Tri-ratnas".
3. What do you know of Ajatasatru?
4. What does the Edict of Kalinga convey?
5. Highlight the steps taken by Ashoka to spread Buddhism.

#### VI. Answer all the questions given under each caption

1. Zoroastrianism
  - (a) Who was the founder?
  - (b) Name the God he proclaimed
  - (c) What did Zoroaster teach?
  - (d) What was the highest form of worship?
2. Gautama Buddha
  - (a) What was the original name of Buddha?
  - (b) Name the birth place of Buddha
  - (c) Where did he get enlightenment?
  - (d) Mention the place of his first sermon

#### VII. Answer the following in detail

1. Discuss the five cardinal principles of Confucius
2. Compare and contrast the principles of Jainism and Buddhism

### FUN WITH HISTORY

#### Student Activities

Prepare a case study of Asoka's Edicts.

Enact a drama about the life and teachings of Buddha.

#### Assignment with teacher's guidance

List out the countries where Buddhism exists in the world and mark on the world map.

Prepare a clay model of Sanchi Stupa, Darmachakra.



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## UNIT

# 5

## The Classical World



### Learning Objectives

- To gain knowledge of the classical civilisation of Greece
- To know Athenian democracy and the age of Pericles
- To understand how a small town (Rome) emerged as a republic and later became an empire
- To learn the contribution of Rome to world civilization
- To acquire knowledge of classical China and its achievements
- To trace the origin of Christianity and its spread in Eastern Roman Empire



### Introduction

When America, Australia and Africa remained outside the mainstream of world history, civilisation blossomed in scattered areas of the land mass of Europe and Asia, known as Eurasia. Some of them soon reached the classical stage. When the classical era was at its height, a chain of empires from Rome to Persia to Peshawar, began to emerge. The expansion of major civilisation eliminated the geographical gap and paved the way for inter-regional trade contacts and cultural exchange. This led to the transmission of ideas, technology and art. The diffusion of the great religions of the world, beginning with Buddhism and later continuing with Christianity and Islam, can be understood in this context.

Classical World comprises ancient Greece and Rome. Classical Age refers to the inter-locking civilisation of ancient Greece and ancient Rome, known as Graeco-Roman World.

### 5.1 Greece: The Hellenic World

Until 8<sup>th</sup> century BC (BCE) Greece was not different from the rest of the world. People were illiterate, craft specialization was primitive, and life was difficult. With the exception of Sparta, agriculture was limited by the mountainous terrain. However, the Greeks succeeded in founding colonies along the coast that helped them earn revenue

through trade. As a result by the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC (BCE), Greece turned into a network of City-States. **Acropolis**, a fortified city of ancient Greeks on a hill in Athens, is an illustrative example of their advancement. Though the City-States fought each other they were bound together by trade, by a common alphabet, similar religious practices, and festivals. The illustrious example for the last one was the Olympic festival of sports and games.



Acropolis

The ruling class in Greece controlled the land. Slaves cultivated the land. Greek writers and philosophers saw the ownership of slaves as essential to a civilized life. Aristotle compared the master and slave relationship to that of husband and wife, and father and children.

### Greeks' Victory over Persians

King Darius (BC (BCE) 550–486), who was heading a great empire in Persia, decided to conquer the Greek City-States. The first Persian attack on Greece failed. This was due to the fact that Persian army suffered from disease and lack of food during its march. Therefore, in planning the second attack, the Persians avoided the land route and came by sea. The Greeks or Hellenes, fought patriotically and defeated the Persian army at Marathon in 490 BC (BCE). Xerxes,

King Darius' successor conducted another expedition. Joined by Spartans this time, the Athenians persisted in their resistance and in the final battle fought in Salamis, Persian ships were destroyed. Disheartened Xerxes returned to Persia without achieving his end.

### "Democracy" in Hellenic Greece

When the Greek City-States first emerged, they still carried the legacy of the past. The rulers came from lines of traditional chieftains. Those who grew rich from the expansion of trade resented the privileges enjoyed by the old ruling families. Yet the Age of Tyrants 6th century to 4th century BC (BCE) proved to be a period of urban development, with new buildings and enormous temples such as **Olympian Zeus** at Athens.

### Athenian Democracy

In Athens, the pressure from below resulted in the replacement of both oligarchy and tyranny by "democracy." The law-making power in Athens was vested in an assembly open to all freemen. Judges and lower officials were chosen by lots. This arrangement was resented by the upper classes who considered democracy to be the rule of the mob.

The Persian danger had united the Greeks. When this danger was removed, they started quarrelling again. The history of many Greek city-states was one of continual struggles by the rich landowners against "democracy". The only exception was Athens, where "democracy" survived for about 200 years.

The word '**democracy**', literally means "rule of the people". In reality it excluded slaves, women, and non-residents known as metics (traders and craftsmen).

### Pericles (461–429 BC (BCE))

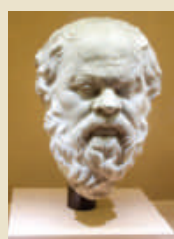
Athens had a great leader, Pericles, who held power for thirty years. During his rule, **Athens** and **Sparta** were continuously at war with each

other. This war is known as the Peloponnesian War. Athens, despite hostility and disturbance from Sparta, became a noble city with magnificent buildings. There were great artists and great thinkers. Historians therefore call this the **Age of Pericles**.



Pericles

The Athenian government, after Pericles, did not like Socrates' way of finding truth. In a trial, Socrates was accused of refusing to accept the gods recognized by the State and corrupting the youth. The jury found Socrates guilty and sentenced him to die by drinking hemlock (a poison).



Socrates

## Beginnings of Hellenistic Civilisation

The Greek city-states did not have an elaborate bureaucracy. They were therefore able to show a greater dynamism. Under Alexander the Great, the Greeks were able to establish a kingdom in Macedonia. This kingdom succeeded in annexing two historic empires of Egypt and the Middle East. But the entire period of Alexander's reign was spent on wars.

Cultural development that took place rapidly after Alexander's death 323 BC (BCE) is called **Hellenistic civilisation**.

The Greek school of Science, Mathematics and Philosophy reached its peak in the Greek-Egyptian city of Alexandria. **Euclid** who formulated the basic theorems of geometry, **Eratosthenes** who accurately calculated the diameter of the earth, and **Hipparchus**, the founder of trigonometry were all products of this age. **Ptolemy** built on Hipparchus's ideas and later developed a model of motion of the planets and stars.

## 5. 2 Rome: The Hellenistic World

### Roman Republic

In the beginning Rome was a society of agriculturists, organized through lineages. Out of this developed a hereditary ruling class. Roman people were divided into two classes: Patricians, rich landlords, and Plebeians, a common citizens.

Rome was strategically located in the crisscrossing trade routes cutting north-south and east-west. Taxes on passing traders added to the revenue derived from agriculture. By the late 6<sup>th</sup> century BC (BCE), Rome developed into a prosperous town.

### Class War between Patricians and Plebeians

Prisoners of war were enslaved in Rome. Thus Rome produced a new labour force for the rich to exploit. Big landholders bought slaves cheaply and used them to cultivate their estates. The slave population grew and by the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC (BCE) there were two million slaves, when the total strength of free population was 3.25 million. Slave labour led to the impoverishment of free labour. Many poor peasants had to abandon their children who also ended up in the slave markets. The conflict between Plebeians and Patricians became bloodier.

Tiberius Gracchus and Gaius Gracchus, though Patricians, voiced their opinion in favour of the poor peasants. As the peasants supported their programme, the Senators, shocked by this development, murdered both of them. The martyrdom of the Gracchus brothers played a decisive role in the transformation of the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire.

A major source of revenue to the Roman state was slave trade. The island of Delos became a great slave market.

## Transfer of Power from Consuls to Emperor

When Marius became Consul with the support of the *equites* (new rich or propertied class below the rank of Senatorial Class), he made an attempt to push through a land distribution bill in the Senate. This led to violence. The allies of Marius were killed. This resulted in a civil war between the followers of Marius and Sulla. After expelling Marius Sulla reigned for three years as a virtual dictator. He was killed and succeeded by Cinna and Catalina.



Marius and Cinna against Sulla, Pompey against Julius Caesar, after Caesar's death Brutus and Cassius against Mark Antony and Octavian (Caesar's nephew) and finally Octavian against Mark Antony. The rich, old and new alike, felt that allowing Octavian, now called Augustus, to establish a de facto monarchy was the only way to re-establish political stability. The period starting from Augustus (27 BC (BCE)) is known as Principate. Augustus called himself Imperator, equivalent to the English word Emperor.



Augustus

### Slave Revolts

There were more slave revolts in Rome than in Greece. The revolt of Spartacus was the most famous. It began in 73 BC (BCE) involving about 70,000 slaves. The revolt threatened the power in Rome. Ultimately Spartacus was killed and the revolt crushed. 6,000 of the followers of Spartacus were executed.

### Establishment of Principate

The civil wars over social issues ended only to be replaced by civil wars between Generals.



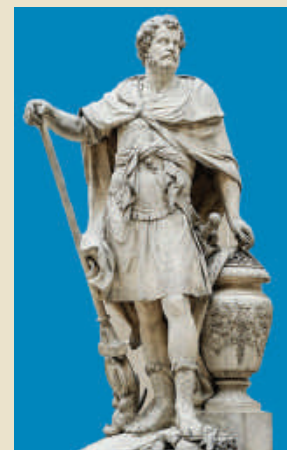
### Society under Principate

During the period of Principate, the imperial ruling class became far more prosperous than under the republic. The period witnessed a great influx of luxury goods such as silk, spices, and gems from the east. Cities were built on a grand scale, with temples, theatres, stadia and colosseum, gymnasia, aqueducts, baths and markets. The rich people distracted the attention of the poor by organizing games and contests in circuses, where the gladiators were forced to fight and kill each other.

The most distinguished writers of the **Augustan Age** brought glory to the empire. Pliny the Elder completed a voluminous encyclopaedia of "science." He called it *Natural History*.

### Punic Wars and the Emergence of Imperial Roman Empire

As Rome was growing in Italy, Carthage was growing in power in north Africa. The Carthaginians were the descendants of the Phoenicians who excelled in seafaring and trade. Rome and Carthage united to drive out the Greeks. Thereafter Carthage took Sicily and threatened the very existence of the Roman state. The three wars fought between them are called **Punic Wars**. Carthage sent a general named Hannibal. He defeated the Roman army and made a great part of Italy a desert. Fabius, who led the Romans, did not give up. In the second Punic War, Fabius confronted Hannibal and defeated him in the Battle of Zama. Pursued by the Roman army, Hannibal ended his life by poisoning himself. The third Punic War was declared on the Carthaginians by Rome. After the defeat and destruction of the Carthage in this War, Rome emerged as an unrivalled power in the western world.



Hannibal



Roman Empire

Seneca was another well known author of an encyclopaedia of science. Horace in his *Odes* developed a philosophy that combined Epicurean justification of pleasure with Stoic bravery in the face of trouble. Livy was more a prose stylist than a historian. The best known historian was Tacitus. Virgil's *Aeneid* glorified Roman imperialism. The Roman law attained its highest stage of development during the Principate.



Colosseum

After the death of Augustus in 14 AD (CE) Rome had few enlightened and capable rulers. With

the exceptions of **Trajan** (98–117), **Antoninus Pius** (138–161) and **Marcus Aurelius** (161–180), all others were tyrants. Marcus Aurelius stands apart from all others. As a philosopher, he authored many books. He was the first Roman Emperor to send an embassy to China and establish contact with an Asian power.

### External Invasions and the Decline of Roman Empire

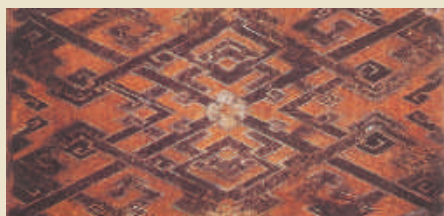
The empire, facing threats from “barbarian incursions,” depended on expensive mercenary armies. In AD (CE) 330 the centre of the empire moved from Italy to the Greek speaking city of Byzantium. But it was difficult to rule the western parts from such a distance. In 410 A.D. (C.E.) the Goth Alaric led his forces to sack Rome. The Frank Clovis took control of Gaul. The Ostrogoth Theodoric proclaimed himself the emperor of Rome. The final onslaught came from Vandals. In 476 A.D. (C.E.), disgusted by the rule of Emperor Romulus Augustus, the Roman army led by Odovacer revolted and deposed him. This marked the end of Western Roman Empire.

## 5.3 Empire Building in East Asia: China

### Fall of Chin Dynasty

Wang Cheng, popularly known as **Shih Huang Ti** (meaning the first emperor), ended the age of warring states in China. He crushed all local rulers and established a strong central government. However, uprisings of the peasantry, unlike in other cultures, occurred again and again in China. Such uprisings led to the collapse of Chin dynasty.

The trade route from China to Asia Minor and India, known as the *Silk Road* or *Silk Route*, linked China with the West. Goods and ideas between the two great civilisation of Rome and China were exchanged through this route. Silk went westward, and wools, gold, and silver went east. China received Buddhism from India via the Silk Road.



Woven silk

## Han Dynasty and Expansion of Chinese Territories

Han dynasty (206 BC (BCE) - AD (CE) 220, founded by Liu Pang, flourished for 400 years. Their capital was Chang-an. The most popular and powerful ruler was **Wu Ti**. His generals succeeded in driving away the Huns in the north. Thus the Han Empire once again threw open the silk road for trade. A large export trade, mainly in silk, reached as far as the Roman Empire.

In the north, artisans and herders of rival “barbarian” dynasties brought in new techniques like the methods of harnessing horses, use of saddle and stirrup, techniques of building bridges and mountain roads, and seafaring. Such innovations made Han Empire prosperous. At the beginning of the Christian Era, the Han Empire rivalled that of Rome in size and wealth.

Buddhism came to China from India during the reign of Han dynasty. With Buddhism came the influence of Indian art to China and from China this spread to Korea and from there to Japan. Some of the Buddhist art of the time show the impact of Hellenistic styles.





Buddha (China)

Han emperors found it extremely difficult to control the big land owners. So after some decades of consolidation, China saw the emergence of several rival kingdoms marked by civil wars in north China. People abandoned their homes and farms, and fled from there to the Yangtze region and beyond. The period after Han ruled witnessed political instability across the country.

## 5.4 Rise of Christianity

After a brief period of glory in the days of David and Solomon, the Jewish people had a great fall and experienced extreme hardship. While spreading out all over the Roman Empire and elsewhere, they hoped that a Messiah would arrive to restore their pristine glory. Initially they laid much hopes on Jesus. Jesus was against the rich and the hypocrites, and condemned certain observances and ceremonies. This was not to the liking of the priests, who turned against Jesus and handed him over to the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate. Looked upon as a political rebel by the Roman authorities, Jesus was tried and crucified.



Jesus addressing his followers

After Jesus's crucifixion, St Paul started spreading the Christian doctrine. Paul succeeded in his effort and Christianity gradually spread. Romans were prepared to tolerate Christianity. But the refusal of the Christians to pay respect to the Emperor's image was viewed as political treason. It led to the persecution of Christians. Their property was confiscated and they were thrown to the lions. Yet the Roman Empire did not succeed in suppressing Christianity. One of the Roman emperors Constantine himself became a Christian. Christianity thus became the official religion of the Empire.

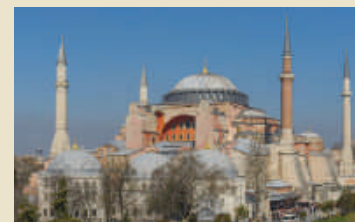
## 5.5 Byzantium

The Byzantine emperors, who ruled from the city of Constantinople for about 1,000 years, called themselves Romans. But their language was Greek. The splendour of Constantinople with its luxurious royal palaces, its libraries, its scholars familiar with the writings of Greeks and Romans and its fascinating St. Sophia Cathedral are the legacies they have left behind.

However, in terms of development of science and technology, there was no progress during this period. The economies of the Empire's provinces were in the hands of large local landowners. The small peasants always lived on the edge of poverty. The fundamental weakness of Byzantine Civilisation stood exposed when the participants of Fourth Crusade pillaged it and ruled it. The tottering empire finally fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

### St. Sophia Cathedral

St. Sophia Cathedral was built in mid-sixth century AD (CE). The most



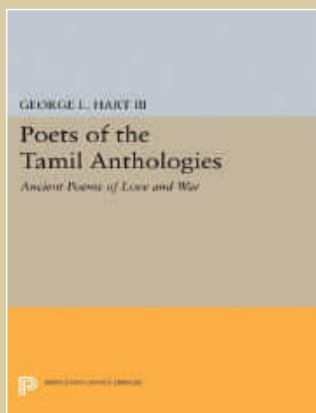
magnificent building in Europe at that time, it was known for its innovative architectural techniques. This Cathedral was turned into a mosque by the Ottoman Turks when they captured Constantinople.

## India during the Classical Period

The Kushan period corresponded with the last days of the Roman Republic, when Julius Caesar was alive. The Kushan Empire is said to have sent an embassy to Augustus Caesar who succeeded Julius.



The corresponding period 4th and 5th A.D. (C.E.) in south India, characterized as Kalabhra period. Teakwood, pepper, pearls, ivory, brocades and precious stones and the like were exported from the Malabar Coast to Babylonia, Egypt, Greece and Rome. Trade with Rome further flourished.



Eighteen major works of Sangam age Viz eight Anthologies (Ettuthogai) and Ten Idylls (Pathupattu) compiled during the first three centuries of common Era were composed during this period. Sangam Literature hailed as first secular literature of India.

### Recap

- The Greeks fought patriotically and repulsed the invasion of Persians.
- Athens rejected monarchy and oligarchy, and opted for “democracy.”
- During the reign of Pericles, Athens was in a higher plane of civilization.
- After the death of Alexander, Science, Mathematics and Philosophy reached its peak in the Greek-Egyptian city of Alexandria, heralding a new Hellenistic era.
- By the late 6th century BC (BCE), Rome became prosperous and developed into a republic.
- Class wars between Patricians and Plebeians, and slave revolts led to emergence of Rome as an Empire.
- The period of Principate in general and Augustus in particular witnessed rich contribution of Romans to science, engineering, architecture and sculpture.
- Internal crisis and invasion of Franks, Goths and Vandals ended the Roman Empire.
- Romans carried on their civilisation in the East with Constantinople as capital. This is called Byzantine Civilization.
- Christianity became a state religion of Byzantium and began to spread in Europe.



## EXERCISE



### I. Choose the correct answer

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the Greek city-state which resisted the Persians to the end.  
a. Acropolis  
b. Sparta  
c. Athens  
d. Rome
2. The other name for Greeks was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Hellenists  
b. Hellenes  
c. Phoenicians  
d. Spartans
3. The founder of Han dynasty was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Wu Ti  
b. Hung Chao  
c. Liu Pang  
d. Mangu Khan
4. \_\_\_\_\_ was the Roman Governor responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus.  
a. Innocent I      b. Hildebrand  
c. Leo I          d. Pontius Pilate
5. The Peloponnesian War was fought between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Greeks and Persians  
b. Plebeians and Patricians  
c. Spartans and Athenians  
d. Greeks and Romans

### II. Fill in the blanks

1. Greeks defeated the Persians at \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ stood in favour of poor peasants in Roman republic.
3. Buddhism came to China from India during the reign of \_\_\_\_\_ dynasty.
4. The most magnificent building in Europe was '\_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were Magistrates in Rome.

### III. Find out the correct statement

1. (i) First Persian attack on Greece failed.  
(ii) The downfall of Roman Empire is attributed to Julius Caesar.  
(iii) The Barbarians who invaded Rome were considered to be culturally advanced.  
(iv) Buddhism weakened the Roman Empire.  
a. (i) is correct  
b. (ii) is correct  
c. (ii) and (iii) are correct  
d. (iv) is correct
2. (i) Euclid developed a model for the motion of planets and stars.  
(ii) Romans established a republic after overthrowing Etruscans.  
(iii) Acropolis became a famous slave market.  
(iv) Rome and Carthage united to drive out the Greeks.  
a. (i) is correct  
b. (ii) is correct  
c. (ii) and (iv) are correct  
d. (iv) is correct.



3. (i) Silk road was closed during the Han dynasty.  
(ii) Peasant uprisings posed threats to Athenian democracy.  
(iii) Virgil's *Aeneid* glorified Roman imperialism.  
(iv) Spartacus killed Julius Caesar.  
a. (i) is correct  
b. (ii) is correct  
c. (ii) and (iv) are correct  
d. (iii) is correct.
4. (i) Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius was a tyrant.  
(ii) Romulus Aurelius was the most admired ruler in Roman History.  
(iii) abius was a famous Carthaginian General.  
(iv) Tacitus is respected more than Livy as a historian.  
a. (i) is correct  
b. (ii) is correct  
c. (ii) and (iii) are correct  
d. (iv) is correct.
5. (i) Buddhism went to China from Japan  
(ii) After crucifixion of Jesus, St Thomas spread the Christian doctrine  
(iii) St Sophia Cathedral was the most magnificent building in Europe  
(iv) Trajan was one of the worst dictators that Rome had.  
a. (i) is correct  
b. (ii) is correct  
c. (iii) is correct  
d. (iv) is correct.

#### IV. Match the following

- |              |   |                  |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Acropolis | - | Consul           |
| 2. Plato     | - | Athens           |
| 3. Marius    | - | Philosopher      |
| 4. Zeus      | - | Materialist      |
| 5. Epicurus  | - | A fortified city |

#### V. Answer the following briefly

1. Attempt an account of slavery in Rome.
2. Highlight the main contribution of Constantine.
3. What do you know of the Carthaginian leader Hannibal?
4. What were the reasons for the prosperity of Han Empire?
5. Write about St. Sophia Cathedral.

#### VI. Answer all questions given under each heading

1. Emergence of Rome as an empire
  - a. Who were the Gracchus brothers?
  - b. What role did they play?
  - c. What was the outcome of their martyrdom?
  - d. Who was the first Roman Emperor?
2. Han Dynasty
  - a. Who was the founder of Han Empire ?
  - b. What was the capital of Han Empire?
  - c. Where did they have their new capital?
  - d. Who was the powerful ruler of the Han dynasty?

#### VII. Answer the following in detail

1. Discuss the rise and growth of Athens, pointing out its glorious legacy
2. Write about India's position during classical position.

### FUN WITH HISTORY

#### Activities for Students

In an outline map of Europe, the students are to sketch the extent of Western and Eastern Roman Empire.

Students are to be guided by teachers to Google the architectural splendours of classical civilisation of Greece, Rome and China.

### Assignment with teacher's guidance

Preparing albums, with masterpiece arts of Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, and Chinese. Writing the brief biography of the distinguished Roman Emperors.



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## ICT CORNER

### The Classical World

Let us learn Greek civilisation through this game.



- Step 1:** Use the URL/QR code to open the activity page "Adventures in Ancient Greece". Click the 'OK' button and type your name to start the activity.
- Step 2:** Type the needed notes on the 'note scroll', shown in the right side. "Timeline, Map, Athens", options are given below.
- Step 3:** Click 'Timeline', a match board will appear. Drag the options from right side window and 'Submit'. Some important cities and the life style of Greek people are given in "MAP".
- Step 4:** Click 'Quiz' and answer the questions.

#### Website URL:

[http://mystery-productions.com/hyper/Hypermedia\\_2003/Miller/AM\\_hypermedia/Artifact/go.htm](http://mystery-productions.com/hyper/Hypermedia_2003/Miller/AM_hypermedia/Artifact/go.htm)

\*Pictures are indicative only.

\*If browser requires, allow Flash Player or Java Script to load the page.



# UNIT

## 6

# The Middle Ages



## Learning Objectives

- To learn about the empires of China during the reign of Tang, Sung and Yuan dynasties
- To understand the evolution of Japanese society under the Fujiwara Family and Kamakura Shogunate
- To trace the background of the birth of Islam
- To acquire knowledge of Arab and Ottoman Empires and their contribution to the spread of Islamic culture
- To analyse the characteristics of Feudalism in the Middle Ages
- To understand the relationship between the State and the Church in the Middle Ages



## Introduction

Historians call the period between the end of the Roman Empire in 476 A.D. (C.E.) and the capture of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453 A.D. (C.E.) as the Middle Ages. The Middle Ages has been further classified as early, central or high and later. In the early Middle Ages (approximately fifth to tenth century), Christianity, followed by Islam, began to establish themselves as dominant religions of continental Europe. The central or high Middle Ages witnessed rapid development, marked by territorial expansion, demographic and urban

growth, and the restructuring of secular and ecclesiastical institutions.

The history of Arab civilisation that began a little later than the history of Byzantium covers a period roughly from 630 A.D. (C.E.) to 1300. Known as Saracenic civilisation it was the centre of a new religion and its impact on Christian Europe was responsible for revolutionary social and intellectual changes.

**Seljuq Turks** were a tribe of Tartars from Central Asia. They established a powerful empire in Persia. Their reign was one of great

progress in literature, art and architecture. Similarly the Ottoman Turks who moved Anatolia (Asia Minor) and established an independent empire contributed to science and technology in a big way.

## EAST ASIA IN THE MIDDLE AGES

### 6.1 China: Tang Dynasty (618–907 A.D. (C.E.))

Sui dynasty collapsed in forty years because of financial burden imposed by public works like the Grand Canal and the expensive wars waged to conquer northern part of Korea. The T'ang dynasty rose from the widespread rebellions that took place to establish a strong centralised empire. Li Yuan who organised the rebellion made Yang You the emperor of China. As Yang was killed by one of his royal officials, the Chancellor, Li Yuan proclaimed himself emperor. Several hundred kilometres of the Great Wall were rebuilt along the north-west frontiers. Military campaigns extended the empire's influence into Korea in the east and as far as the borders of Persia and Indo-China in the west.

**Great Wall of China:** Between 8th and 7th centuries B.C. (BCE), the warring states in China built



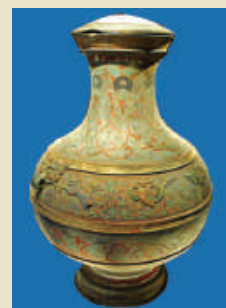
defensive walls to protect themselves from enemies from the north. During Chin (Qin) Dynasty, the separate walls were connected and consequently the wall stretched from east to west for about 5000 kilometres. This wall, considered to be one of the wonders of the world, served to keep nomadic tribes out. The Wall was further extended and strengthened by the succeeding dynasties. Now it is 6,700 kilometres in length.

Tang dynasty undertook enormous public works. Two capital cities, Boyang and Chang-on, were built. Scholar officials, trained in Confucius Philosophy, were appointed to counterbalance the landowning aristocratic class. Land was divided into small peasant holdings. As a result, the agricultural surplus went to the state as taxes, not to the aristocrats as rents. State monopoly of salt, and tea added to its revenues.

### Sung Dynasty (960–1279 A.D. (C.E.))

The rebellion of hard-pressed peasantry under the leadership of Hung Ch'ao dealt a death knell to the tottering Tang empire. The empire split into five rival states, until it was reunited under a new dynasty, Sung. Trade and industry flourished during the reign of Sung dynasty. Iron and steel industries became highly organized.

The quantity of iron China produced in 1078 A.D. (C.E.) exceeded 114,000 tons (England produced only 68,000 tons even in 1788). China excelled in ceramics and porcelain-making. This technique was not known to Europe for another 700 years. Gun powder was in use by 1044. China possessed printed books half a millennium before Europe. (Chris Harman, *A People's History of the World*, p. 111.)



### Fall of Sung Dynasty

Sung period was also a period of great prosperity to the landowning class, officials and rich merchants. The peasants, by contrast, had to suffer grinding poverty. Before any internal crisis could develop, there were two external invasions from the north that ended the Sung dynasty. The



Mongols established their rule in the name of Yuan dynasty.

### **Yuan Dynasty (1279–1368 A.D. (C.E.))**

The Mongols, who overran Persia and the whole of Central Asia, did not spare China either. Mangu Khan became the Great Khan in 1252 who appointed Kublai Khan the Governor of China. The Mongol presence from one end of Eurasia to the other played a key role in spreading Chinese technological advances to the less developed societies in the west. Though the Mongol court in Beijing impressed a foreigner like Marco Polo, the poverty of peasantry continued. There were revolts of religious sects and secret societies. Finally, the leader of “**Red Turbans**” Chu Yuan Chang captured the Mongol capital, Beijing and proclaimed himself emperor in 1369.



Kublai Khan



Mongol Court

### **Ming Empire (1368–1644 A.D. (C.E.))**

The Ming Empire, which replaced the Mongol empire, consciously discouraged industry and foreign trade in order to concentrate on agriculture. This resulted, economically China lagging behind in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Other parts of Eurasia, building on the techniques of the Chinese, began to march ahead.

## **6.2 Japan**

Many of ancestors of the Japanese came from Korea and some from Malaysia. It was through Korea that Chinese civilisation reached Yamato (Yamato was the original name of Japan). The original inhabitants of the

country (aborigines) are known as “Ainus.” The original religion of Japan was Shinto. It was a mixture of nature and ancestor worship.

Japan remained in isolation for many centuries. This gave them the benefit of enjoying freedom from the foreign invasions. In Japan Buddhism came through Korea.



Shinto Religion

In Japan also the leading families opposed and fought each other to gain power. Their emperor Mikado was an autocrat but a puppet in the hands of a few powerful families. The first great family that controlled the state was the Soga family. Shotoku Taishi was the leader. He made the central government strong.

After the death of Shotoku Taishi, his family was driven out by Nakatom no Kamatari, the founder of the Fujiwara family. Kamatari adopted many Chinese methods and made the central government further strong. He made Nara the capital. From 794 AD (CE) Kyoto remained the capital for more than one thousand years until it was replaced by Tokyo. Fujiwara family emperors in later years retired to monasteries and lived as monks. Yet they continued to exercise authority.

During the two-hundred-year rule of Fujiwaras, a new class of large landholders emerged. These landholders were also military men, called Daimyos (meaning great names-lords). The Daimyos became powerful with their retainers and armies. Out of the fight between two chief families, the Taira and the Minamoto, Yoritomo emerged successful. In AD (CE) 1192, the emperor gave him the high sounding title of Sei-i-tai-Shogun, which means the Barbarian-

subduing-Great-General. The title carried full power to govern hereditarily. The Shogun became the real ruler. In this way began the rule of Shogunate.

Yoritomo established his military capital at Kamakura. Therefore, the first Shogunate is called the Kamakura Shogunate. Japan followed China in all spheres of life but in its own way. The emperor became a ceremonial head. The government was a feudal military government administered by *samurai* or warriors. The Mongols, who changed the course of history in Asia and terrified Europe, were successfully repulsed by the Japanese under this Shogunate. Yet the decline of the ruling dynasty started and in 1338 AD (CE), the Kamakura Shogunate ended. A new line of Shogunate came to power known as Ashikaga Shogunate that lasted for 235 years. But this was a period of conflict and war. Three men ultimately rescued Japan from the prolonged civil war. They were Borbunaga, a Daimyo or noble, Hideyoshi, a peasant and Tokugawa Iyeyasu, one of the distinguished nobles of the time. By the end of 16<sup>th</sup> century the whole of Japan was again united.

### 6.3 Islam and the Rise of Islamic Empires

Prophet Mohammad established Islam. Islam gave a message of brotherhood. Mohammad laid stress on the equality of all those who were Muslims. This message of equality and brotherhood had great appeal not only for the Arabs, who were divided into warring tribes, but also for people in other parts of the world. However, faced with persecution in his place of birth, Mohammad and his followers moved to the city of Yethrib. The flight of Mohammad from Mecca in 622 AD (CE) is called *Hijrah* in Arabic. In honour of his coming, the people of Yethrib renamed the city to Madinat-un-Nabi-the city of the Prophet. It is now known as Medina. Mohammad died ten years after the *Hijrat* (AD (CE) 632). By the time of his death, united under a common faith, the Arabs became a powerful force.



Mecca

#### 6.3 (a) Arabian

Abu Bakr and Omar who succeeded Prophet Mohammad as *Khalif or Caliph* (both religious and temporal leader) laid the foundation for an Islamic Empire. In a short period of time, the Arabs defeated both the Eastern Roman Empire and the Sassanid King of Persia. Jerusalem, the holy city of Jews and Christians, was won by the Arabs, and the whole of Spain and Persia came under the new Arab Empire.

Islam advocated simplicity and equality. These two ideas impressed people fed up with the old order of oppression and exploitation. The Arabs easily overran many regions. Egyptians had suffered much under the Roman Empire and so they opted for Arabs. Led by the General Tariq, the Arabs, after conquering Morocco and Africa, crossed into Europe and took Spain which they ruled for many hundreds of years. The Arabs, until then largely nomads from the deserts, became the rulers of a mighty empire. They were called Saracens (from *sahra* and *nashin* - the dwellers of the desert).

#### Birth of Sunni and Shia Sects

The quarrel for the leadership of Arabia led to a division in Islam. The two sects formed out of the division were the Sunnis and Shias. The Sunnites, Sunni Muslims, maintained that the head of the Islamic state and successor to the Prophet should be elected by representatives of the whole body of believers. The Shiites, the followers of Shia sect, opposed elevation to any highest political and religious office other than those related to the Prophet by blood or by marriage.

## Rule of Ommiad or Umayyad dynasty

The Caliphs, belonging to a branch of Mohammad's family, known as Ommiads or Umayyads ruled for about 100 years. Damascus was their capital. They developed a new style of architecture known as Saracenic architecture. The arches, the pillars, and the minarets and domes came to India later and blended with Indian ideas.



Saracenic Architecture

The Muslim Arabs carried Islam far and wide. But while they were fighting at distant lands, the Arabs at home were quarrelling. Ali, the son-in-law of Prophet Mohammad and his son Hussein were murdered. **Umayyads** were overthrown by Abbasids. This branch descended from Prophet Mohammad's uncle Abbas and hence his followers were called Abbasids.

## Rule of Abbasids

Abbasid rule began in 750 A.D. (C.E.) assuming the title of "the Commander of the Faithful",



Baghdad City

Abbasid Caliph wielded authority as any other Emperor. The Abbasids tried to rival the old empires in splendour. The capital was shifted from Damascus to Baghdad in Iraq.

**Baghdad-** a city known as the city of Arabian Nights, 'was a vast city of palaces and public offices and schools and colleges, and great shops and parks and gardens. The merchants carried on a vast trade with the East and West.... Visitors came to Baghdad from all over the world, especially learned men and students and artists Nehru, *Glimpses of World History*.

## Arabs' Scholarly Pursuits

Abbasid Caliphs did not attempt to conquer new lands. Instead they tried to consolidate the Empire. They were more interested in scholarly pursuits. The Arabs had a scientific spirit of inquiry. In some subjects like medicine and mathematics they learnt much more from India. Indian scholars and mathematicians came in large numbers to Baghdad. Sanskrit books on medicine and other subjects were translated into Arabic. In medicine and surgery, Arab physicians and surgeons earned a great reputation.

## 6.3 (b) Disintegration of Arab Empire and Rise of Seljuq Turks

The Abbasid Empire was at the height of its glory during the reign of Harun-al-Rashid. Soon after his death, the Arab Empire started disintegrating. Independent kingdoms arose everywhere. The Caliph became more and more powerless to control those kingdoms. The Turks (known as Seljuq Turks), who had become Muslims, succeeded in taking possession of Baghdad. They also defeated the Byzantine army of Constantinople and posed a challenge to the European states. The Christian pilgrims to the holy city of Jerusalem were put to a lot of hardships by the Turks. The resultant conflict led to the Crusades.



### 6.3 (c) Crusades and Fall of Seljuq Turks

The Pope and the Church called upon all the Christian peoples of Europe to march to the rescue of the “holy city” (Jerusalem). The Crusaders had to fight against the Seljuq Turks who controlled those parts. The struggle between Christianity and Islam beginning in 1095 continued for nearly 200 years and is called the Crusades.

The Crusades did not achieve the desired end. Jerusalem continued to remain in Ottoman hands for another 700 years. This continuous fighting associated with Crusades weakened the Seljuq Turks. The Mongol invasion from the East side-lined this cause and Christians and Muslims alike started shifting their attention towards the advancing Mongols, led by **Chengiz Khan**. The destruction of Baghdad in 1258 A.D. (C.E.), by the Mongols, put an end to what remained of the Abbasid Empire.



Jerusalem

### 6.3 (d) Impact of Crusades

Crusades ended the feudal relations. Many of the nobles who went to East to take part in the Crusades either stayed too long a period or did not return. The serfs took advantage of their absence to break away from their bondage to the soil. Increasing demand for products of the East led to expansion of trade. *Venice, Genoa and Pisa* emerged as important commercial centres in the



Mediterranean region. Constantinople ceased to be the middle man in the trade between the East and the West. The elimination of powerful nobles had its influence in strengthening the monarchy in France and England. One notable outcome of Crusades was the loss of prestige suffered by Pope and Papacy.

### Mongols and Chengiz Khan

Mongols were nomads. They were herdsmen. The Mongols were experts in warfare and produced a remarkable chief, Chengiz Khan. He was a great military genius. Mongols' hold over Russia for about 300 years made Russia technologically backward from the rest of Europe until the end of Middle Ages."



Chengiz Khan

## 6.4 Ottoman Empire

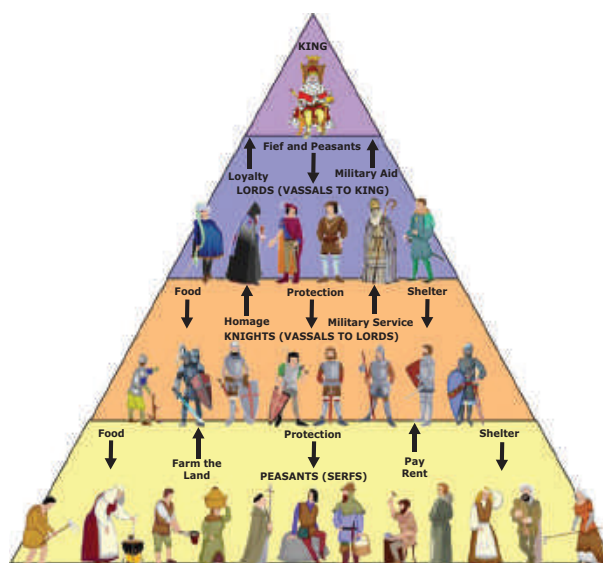
When the Mongols advanced across Asia, Ottoman Turks (different from Seljuq Turks) fled and took asylum under Seljuqs in western Asia. But when the Seljuq Turks weakened, the Ottomans extended their power. They crossed over to Europe and occupied Bulgaria and Serbia, and made Adrianople their capital. Instead of directly attacking Constantinople they surrounded it and were biding their time. The conquest of Constantinople in 1453 A.D. (C.E.) by Mohammad II, helped establish Ottoman supremacy in the Balkans, Black Sea and the Middle East.

For some time, Ottomans were strong and Christian Europe was scared of them. After conquering Egypt, they assumed the title of Caliph. They became a major player in the international power politics of the day. Though weakened during the 19<sup>th</sup> century it formally ended only with World War I.

## 6.5 Feudalism

### 6.5 (a) State

Despite the hold of powerful religions such as Christianity and Islam, the economic life of people was governed by feudal relations.



Feudalism

The king, supposed to represent God on earth, was at the head of the feudal regime. Immediately after him were the great nobles, known as dukes, counts, earls. The relationship was one of a vassal. The nobles in turn had vassals of their own, dividing and distributing their *fief* to lesser nobles called viscounts or barons. Last in this order were the knights, whose fiefs could not be divided. At the bottom were the villeins or serfs they are called slaves.

In the feudal system which centred around vassalage, there was no idea of equality or freedom. There were only rights and obligations. The Bishops, Abbots and Cardinals the priest next to pope Cardinals Bishops - religious head in district level Abbots -chief among the christian priest and the Church came under this socio-political structure. The nobility and the clergy did not do any physical work. So the burden of producing the food and other necessities of life fell on the peasants and artisans.

## 6.5 (b) Church

New elements were included in Christian theology. They were the theory of priesthood and the theory of sacraments. These two elements increased the power of the clergy.

**Excommunication** meant depriving a person of all the privileges of a Christian. He was denied the right to sacraments in Church. His or her body could not be buried in the consecrated ground. **Interdict** was to deny benefits of religion to a ruler's subject, intended to kindle their resentment against him.

The growth of the Church in the later Middle Ages was accompanied by the rise of ambitious political leaders. In the conflict between German Emperor Henry IV and Pope Gregory VII, Pope by means of Interdict succeeded in making the emperor to abdicate the throne. By means of interdict Pope Innocent III forced King John to recognize England and Ireland as fiefs of the papacy. Many pious Christians now began to resent Pope's intrusion into state affairs.

## India in the Corresponding Period

### The Huns

Around the time when Europe fragmented into multiple small Germanic kingdoms after the collapse of Roman Empire, the Huns (white), a fierce and warlike people from Central Asia, invaded Northeast India. Though they were repulsed by Skandagupta, they entered India after his death and settled all over Central India. Toramana and Mihirakula were the two well known Hun rulers in India. They persecuted Buddhists and burnt all the monasteries. Yasodharman of Malwa is credited to have ended the rule of Huns in India around 528 A.D.(CE).



Skandagupta's Gold Coin



Skandagupta's Silver Coin



Yashodharman Victory Pillar, Mandsaur

### Chalukyas' (of Badami or Vadabi) relationship with Persia

The Chalukya kingdom existed contemporaneously with the rule of Sassanid dynasty in Persia. Khusrau II, the last great king of Sassanid dynasty, who had a close relationship with the Tang dynasty in China, and the Chalukya ruler Pulakesin II exchanged ambassadors. The Chalukya kingdom comprised the Maharashtra country with Badami as capital. Hiuen Tsang speaks highly of their courage. According to him, 'they are warlike and proud-spirited, grateful for favours and revengeful for wrongs'.





## Recap

- China which rivalled Rome during the Christian era, after experiencing political instability, accomplished unity and was ruled by the Sung dynasty for about three centuries.
- Sung dynasty was overthrown by the Mongols who established Yuan dynasty in China.
- Japan, which remained in isolation, joined the mainstream in the sixth century AD (CE) with Mikado becoming its emperor. Japan followed China in all walks of life.
- The emperors slowly lost their control and the government was taken over by the military general, who founded the Kamakura Shogunate.
- Kamakura Shogunate was replaced by Ashikaga Shogunate.
- Islam, established by Prophet Mohammad, began to spread.
- Arabs who took to Islam early succeeded in establishing Islamic kingdom first in Spain and later in other parts of Europe.
- Umayyads ruled from Damascus, while the Abbasids from Baghdad.
- The fight for the leadership of Arabia after the death of Prophet Mohammad led to division in Islam as Sunni and Shia.
- The architecture developed by Arabs is known as Saracenic.
- The takeover of the holy city of Jerusalem by Seljuq Turks resulted in the Crusades.
- The weakening of Seljuq Turks led to the rise of Ottoman Turks.
- The capture of Constantinople by Ottoman Turks ended the Middle Ages.



## EXERCISE



### I. Choose the correct answer

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was the old religion of Japan  
(a) Shinto  
(b) Confucianism  
(c) Taoism  
(d) Animism
2. \_\_\_\_\_ means great name - lord.  
(a) Daimyo (b) Shogun  
(c) Fujiwara (d) Tokugawa
3. The Arab General who conquered Spain was \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) Tariq (b) Alaric  
(c) Saladin (d) Mohammad the Conqueror
4. Harun-al-Rashid was the able emperor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) Abbasid dynasty  
(b) Umayyad dynasty  
(c) Sassanid dynasty  
(d) Mongol dynasty
5. Feudalism centred around \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) vassalage (b) slavery  
(c) serfdom (d) land

### II. Fill in the blanks

1. \_\_\_\_\_ were the original inhabitants of Japan.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was the original name of Japan.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was the original name of Medina.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ were the barbarians posing a threat to the Chinese in the north.



5. \_\_\_\_\_ established Ottoman supremacy in the Balkans.

### III. Find out the correct statement

- 1 (i) Chengiz Khan was an intolerant person in religion  
(ii) Mongols destroyed the city of Jerusalem  
(iii) Crusades weakened the Ottoman Empire  
(iv) Pope Gregory succeeded in making King Henry IV to abdicate the throne by means of Interdict  
(a) (i) is correct  
(b) (ii) is correct  
(c) (ii) and (iii) are correct  
(d) (iv) is correct
2. (i) Mangu Khan was the Governor of China.  
(ii) Mongol court in China impressed Marco Polo.  
(iii) The leader of Red Turbans was Hung Chao.  
(iv) Mongols established their rule in China in the name of Yuan dynasty.  
a. (i) is correct  
b. (ii) is correct  
c. (ii) and (iv) are correct  
d. (iv) is correct
3. (i) Boyang and Changan were built during Sung dynasty.  
(ii) Peasant uprisings led to the collapse of Tang dynasty.  
(iii) Seljuq Turks were a tribe of Tartars.  
(iv) Mongols established their rule in China in the name of Yuan dynasty.  
(a) (i) is correct  
(b) (ii) is correct  
(c) (iii) is correct  
(d) (iv) is correct

4. **Assertion (A):** Buddhism went to China from India

**Reason (R):** The earliest Indian inhabitants in China were the followers of Buddhism.

- a) A is correct; R is wrong  
b) Both A & R are wrong  
c) Both A & R are correct  
d) A is wrong R is irrelevant to A

5. **Assertion (A):** The fall of Jerusalem into the hands of Seljuk Turks led to the Crusades.

**Reason (R):** European Christian pilgrims were denied access to Jerusalem.

- a) A is correct; R is not the correct explanation of A  
b) A and R are correct  
c) A and R are wrong  
d) A is correct, R is the correct explanation of A

### IV. Match the Following

- |                              |   |                        |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. Red Turbans               | – | Kamakura               |
| 2. Seljuk Turks              | – | Mohammad II            |
| 3. First Shogunate           | – | City of Arabian Nights |
| 4. Baghdad                   | – | Chu Yuan Chang         |
| 5. Capture of Constantinople | – | Central Asia           |

### V. Answer the following briefly

1. The Great Wall of China.
2. Impact of Crusades.
3. How was Feudalism organized in the Middle Ages?
4. Write about the two instruments used by Medieval Pope to assert his authority.



## VI. Answer all the questions given under each caption

1. Shogunate in Japan
  - (a) Name the two Daimyo families that fought for power in Japan.
  - (b) Who emerged successful in the fight?
  - (c) What was the title given by the Emperor to the victorious?
  - (d) Where was the capital of the first Shogunate established?
2. Rule of Abbasids
  - (a) Who were Abbasids?
  - (b) What was the title assumed by Abbasid Caliph?
  - (c) Where did they have their new capital?
  - (d) In whose period was the Abbasid Empire at the height of its glory?

## FUN WITH HISTORY

### Student Activities

In an outline map of Europe, the students are to sketch the extent of Ottoman Empire at the height of its glory.

Students are to be guided by teachers to look through Google the architectural splendours of Saracenic architecture.

### Assignment with teacher's guidance

Sketching Ottoman family tree and attempting a biographical account of Saladin of Egypt and Suleiman the Magnificent of Ottoman Empire.

Attempting an account of the Crusades led by Richard the Lion-Hearted of England and German Emperor Frederick Barbarossa.

## VII. Answer the following in detail

1. Write about crusades and its impact.
2. Who were the Mongols? How did they rule China?



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# UNIT

## 7

# State and Society In Medieval India

From the Cholas to the Mughals



## Learning Objectives

To acquire knowledge of

- Successive dynasties and the resultant political outcomes from the times of the Cholas to the Mughals
- Influence of Islam and Islamic state on the socio-cultural life of the people
- Institutional and administrative changes during Chola, Pandya and Vijayanagara periods in the south
- Right and Left Hand Caste conflicts and changes in religious spheres on account of advent of European Missions
- Development of literature, art and architecture
- Transformation in agriculture and manufacturing sector
- Progress in maritime trade, commerce and urbanization



## Introduction

The 'medieval' period from the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D.(CE) till the beginning of Mughal rule in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Mughal era, from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century is referred to as the early modern period.

The political scenario in all parts of India underwent momentous, definitive changes which transformed the social and economic fabric and development of the country.

## Major Political Changes

- The expansion of the Chola empire from the time of Rajaraja I which eclipsed the Pandyan and Pallava kingdoms, extending north till Orissa.
- From the twelfth century, the beginning of several centuries of Muslim rule in Delhi, extending throughout north India and the spread of Islam to different parts of the country.

- By the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century the eclipse of the great empire of the Cholas and the consequent rise of many Religious kingdoms in south India. This ultimately culminated in the rise of the Vijayanagar empire which exercised authority over all of south India and came to be considered the bastion of Religious rule in the south.
- The consolidation of Muslim rule under the Mughals in the north, beginning in 1526 A.D. (C.E.) with the defeat of the Ibrahim Lodi by Babur. At its height, the Mughal empire stretched from Kabul to Gujarat to Bengal, from Kashmir to south India.
- The coming of the Europeans, beginning with the Portuguese who arrived on the west coast of India in 1498.

## 7.1 Political Changes (1000–1700)

### 7.1 (a) North India: The Advent of Islam

Muslim rule was established in Delhi at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century by **Muhammad Ghori**, Arab Muslim merchants had been trading in the ports of the west coast, especially Kerala, as early as the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Similarly, Muslim invaders from west Asia had set up Sultanates in Gujarat and Sind since the 8<sup>th</sup> century.

The impact of Muslim rule was felt during the reign of **Alauddin Khalji** (1296-1316 A.D. (C.E.)) who sent military campaigns to the south. The primary objective was to plunder the wealth, rather than to expand his territory.





Devagiri (near Aurangabad) was captured by Alauddin Khalji. Renamed Daulatabad, it was the second stronghold of his growing kingdom. Alauddin Khalji's slave and commander, Malik Kafur, was sent on military expeditions further south in the first decade of the 1300s A.D. (C.E.).

The Tughlaq kings who came after Alauddin also sent their armies to the south. As a result, the generally more isolated southern part of the country came into the orbit of the rulers of the north. Governors were appointed in various provinces in the Deccan region, and a Sultanate was even established in Madurai.

During the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq, there was a revolt in Daulatabad. Alauddin Bahman Shah set up the Bahmani sultanate in 1347 A.D. (C.E.), with



Muhammad bin Tughlaq

his capital in Bidar. The Bahmani kingdom survived for nearly a century and a half, mainly due to the able administration of **Mahmud Gawan**, a great statesman and loyal minister. After his death, many viceroys declared their independence, and by the end of the fifteenth century, five sultanates came up in the Deccan: Bijapur, Golkonda, Ahmednagar, Berar, and Bidar. Bijapur and Golkonda were the largest of these sultanates and the region entered a phase of considerable economic growth and expansion of trade. The Deccan sultanates were conquered by Aurangzeb in the 1660s A.D. (C.E.), and the entire region, as far south as Madras (Chennai) became a part of the Mughal empire.

### 7.1 (b) The Chola Empire in the South

The territorial expansion of the Chola empire began under **Rajaraja I**. The Pallava kingdom had already been assimilated into the Chola kingdom. The Pandya kingdom



King Raja Raja Chola I

remained independent, but was subservient to the Cholas. The empire expanded further under **Rajendra I** who had successfully taken his armies as far to the northeast as the river Ganges. He had also sent naval expeditions against the Sailendra Kingdom of Sri Vijaya (in Indonesia), Kadaram (Kedah) and Ceylon. This earned him the title "the Chola who had conquered the Ganga and Kadaram" (*gangaikum kadaramum konda cholan*). Ceylon remained a province of the Chola empire for a few decades. The empire was further consolidated through marriage with the eastern Chalukyas under Rajendra's grandson **Kulottunga I**, and extended up to the border of Orissa.

Maritime trade with south-east Asia and China expanded greatly during the Chola period. The continued interaction with Tamil merchants resulted in the spread of the influence of Indic culture and art into south-east Asia, as seen in the magnificent temples of Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

### 7.1 (c) Vijayanagar and South India after the Cholas

The Chola Empire began to decline after the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The last known Chola emperor was Rajendra III. The empire died out in 1279 A.D. (C.E.). Several power



centres came up after this in the region. Further to the south, the Pandya kings again sought to regain the glory they had lost under the Cholas.



Many brilliant Pandya kings like Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan ruled at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Further to the north was the Hoysala kingdom, with its capital at Belur and later Halebidu. This kingdom extended through much of the present day state of Karnataka. The Kakatiyas ruled from Warangal (Telangana) while the Yadavas ruled in Devagiri until Devagiri fell to Alauddin Khalji's forces at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. These states did not exist in peaceful cooperation, and the region was beset by many internal wars and conflicts.

The establishment of the kingdom (subsequently empire) of Vijayanagar was the most momentous development in the history of south India in the medieval period. The kingdom was established by Harihara and Bukka, two brothers. They were the first rulers of the Sangama dynasty. They founded a new capital city on the southern banks of Tungabhadra which they named Vijayanagara (city of victory). Harihara was crowned in 1336 A.D. (C.E.). The Sangama dynasty ruled Vijayanagar for nearly one and a half centuries. This was followed by the Saluva dynasty which was in power only for a brief period. The Tuluva dynasty then succeeded as rulers. Krishnadeva Raya, the greatest ruler of Vijayanagar, belonged to this family.

**Kingdom:** a country ruled by a king or queen.

**Empire:** a group of countries controlled by one ruler (an emperor).

As the empire expanded, kingdoms to the south, such as the Hoysalas and the Tamil region, were also assimilated into Vijayanagar. The rulers of Vijayanagar were almost continuously at war with the Bahmani sultanate as well as with the Religious based kingdoms of Kondavidu and Orissa. Finally, the combined forces of the five Deccani Sultanates defeated Vijayanagar in 1565 A.D. (C.E.) at the Battle of Talikota. The Vijayanagar emperors then shifted their capital further south to Penugonda,

and eventually to Chandragiri near Tirupati. The empire (or what remained of it) finally withered away in the middle of the seventeenth century.

### 7.1 (d) The Mughals (1526–1707 A.D. (C.E.))

The Mughal empire was founded by Babur in 1526 A.D. (C.E.) after he defeated Ibrahim Lodi at Panipat. The first six Mughal emperors are referred to as the 'Great Mughals'. Aurangzeb was the last of the great Mughals. Akbar consolidated the Mughal empire through conquests and through a policy of conciliation with the Religious based kingdoms of Rajasthan. The Mughal empire though began to disintegrate after Aurangzeb, continued to exist nominally till 1857 A.D. (C.E.) when the British finally ended the virtually non-existent empire.

A new power centre rose in Maharashtra in the seventeenth century, and the Marathas under the leadership of **Shivaji** seriously undermined the authority of the Mughals in western India. At its height, the empire stretched over most of the Indian sub-continent. Only the south-western region of Kerala and southern Tamilnadu were not directly under Mughal rule.

### 7.1 (e) The Arrival of the Europeans

During the fifteenth century the Europeans were pre-occupied with trying to find a direct sea route to India, bypassing the overland route through west Asia and the Mediterranean. The spice trade from India was controlled by Muslims up to Alexandria. By gaining direct access to India the Europeans could exercise more direct control over the spice trade and obtain the spices at more favourable prices. In 1498 A.D. (C.E.), Vasco da Gama landed on the Kerala coast having sailed around the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa. Barely five years later, the Portuguese built their first fort at Cochin in 1503 A.D. (C.E.). Goa was captured in 1510 A.D. (C.E.) and became the centre of the Portuguese state in India. Because of their naval

superiority, the Portuguese were able to conquer many ports from east Africa up to Malacca, and could effectively control the maritime trade over the entire region.



Trade in Masulipattinam

Other European nations soon followed the Portuguese, most notably the Dutch, English and French. The activities of the latter were carried on through the respective East India Companies. While these were all private trading enterprises, they all had a strong political agenda. During the seventeenth century, when Mughal authority was still powerful, the European companies were able to trade in the Mughal empire, but could not have their own territorial base within the boundaries of the empire. In South India, however, political authority was fragmented and much less cohesive, and they had their own enclaves over which they exercised complete authority. The Dutch were in Pulicat (and later Nagapatnam), the English in Madras, the French in Pondicherry and the Danes in Tarangampadi (Tranquebar).

## 7.2 Impact on Polity

In Indian history had far-reaching consequences on administrative institutions, society and the economy across the sub-continent.

The CHOLA PERIOD was an enterprising period when trade and the economy expanded, accompanied by urbanization. The administrative machinery was re-organised during Chola rule. The basic unit of local administration was the village (*ur*), followed by the sub-region (*nadu*) and district (*kottam*). Tax-free villages granted to Brahmins were

known as *brahmadeya*. Marketing centres and towns were known as *nagaram*. The *ur*, *nadu*, *brahmadeya* and *nagaram* each had its own assembly. They were responsible for the maintenance and management of the water resources and land; the local temples; resolving local issues and disputes; and for collecting the taxes due to the government.

The Cholas notable feature was the great increase in the construction of temples. This had two dimensions: new temples were constructed, and existing temples became multi-functional social and economic institutions. The construction of great temples also was a reflection of the growing prosperity in the kingdom, since the activity involved great expenditure. The temple was no longer a mere place of worship, but became an important economic entity as an employer, consumer and land-owner.

The establishment of Islamic Rule in Delhi made a big impact on Indian society. Initially, Islam did not cause any social tension. Arab merchants, for instance, when they came and settled on Kerala coast, married local women and led a peaceful life. The situation changed when Islam became a state power. For a medieval ruler one way of asserting imperial authority was to demolish the place of worship of the enemies. Otherwise Islam as a monotheistic religion had its positive impact in Indian society. It played a decisive role in the evolution of a composite culture.

Muslim kingdoms in Delhi, as well in the Deccan, also attracted migrants from Persia and Arabia who moved to India and took up service in these states and many became important and well-known statesmen. This also opened up Indian society to steady interaction with west Asia resulting in the transfer of cultural and technical influences. Muslim merchants and craftsmen also migrated from the north of India to the south in the wake of the military expeditions. Society became more heterogeneous and hybrid in character. A new composite culture evolved. This could be seen



most vividly in the Deccan sultanates of Bijapur and Golkonda whose rulers were extremely broad-minded and secular in outlook.

A notable development was the profusion of contemporary historical accounts of the Muslim Sultanates by Arab and Persian historians. Al beruni, Ibn Batuta, and Ferishta are among the best known of the Muslim historians. These historians provide valuable information about the rulers and events of the medieval period. They also provide an alternate historical point of view of Islamic rule in India as seen through the eyes of Muslim writers.

The establishment of the VIJAYANAGAR EMPIRE changed the administrative and social institutional structure of south India, especially in the Tamil country. Perhaps because the new kingdom was threatened from the beginning by the hostility of the Bahmani sultanate in the north, Vijayanagar evolved as a militaristic state. This empire needed two kinds of resources to feed its military establishment – revenue and men. This was achieved through re-organizing the administration of the conquered territories, especially in the Tamil region. Military officers, known as '*nayakas*', were appointed as chiefs of various localities in Tamilnadu and received land grants from the emperor. There were also lesser military leaders known as *palayakkarar* who essentially supplied the manpower for the army. Many forts were also built which were under Brahman commanders.

Three major nayaka kingdoms, owing allegiance to the Vijayanagar emperor, came up between 1500 A.D. (C.E.) and 1550 A.D. (C.E.) in Madurai, Tanjavur and Gingee (Senji). These nayakas had formal roles in court ceremonials at Vijayanagar. This became the new political order in Tamilnadu during the sixteenth century. The nayaka chieftains as well as the three nayaka kings were all strong supporters of Hindu temples. The three capitals became great cultural centres under the patronage of the nayaka rulers who promoted literature and the performing arts.

Resources realized from the land were transferred to the empire by the nayakas not as tax revenue, but as tribute. Thus, the resources of the core regions, especially in the Tamil region, were utilized for military purposes. This administrative set-up effectively destroyed the decentralized, local institutions which managed local resources, temples and affairs which had come up during Chola rule. The appointment of Telugu nayakas also resulted in the migration of Telugu-speaking people from the north. These included soldiers, agriculturists, craftsmen and Brahmins.

The MUGHAL EMPIRE transformed the economy and society of north India. The empire was consolidated under Akbar through his policy of co-opting the Hindu Rajput rulers under the umbrella of Mughal rule. At the height of its power the Mughal empire was one of the largest, richest and most powerful empires in the entire world.

In part due to Aurangzeb's reversal to orthodox Islamic principles of governance which alienated the Rajput rulers and the Hindu subjects, the over-extended empire began to collapse under its own weight by the beginning of the eighteenth century.

The ARRIVAL OF THE EUROPEANS in India ultimately culminated in the establishment of colonial rule in India under the British, and this is what is considered foremost when discussing the impact of the European presence. There was an explosion in the demand for Indian textiles in the European markets, often referred to as the 'Indian craze'. This led to a significant expansion of textile production in India, which was accompanied by an expansion of the production of commercial crops like cotton and indigo and other dyes.

## 7.3 Society

### 7.3 (a) Caste

Caste is the most distinctive aspect of Indian society. We first need to understand two dimensions of the term 'caste'. First, the

four-fold division of society as specified in the religious texts, referred to as *varna*.

Improving the status of their jati was a major pre-occupation for all caste groups. This is particularly evident after the fourteenth century when the traditional local assemblies which controlled the resources and social interactions began to weaken. In traditional society many castes were denied various social rights and privileges. Caste also created a mythical genealogy to establish its origins; this was used to justify the claim for the right to a higher status in the hierarchy. These genealogies are found in many of the manuscripts collected by Colin Mackenzie.

### 7.3 (b) Religion

Diverse institutions with different ideologies came up within the bhakti movement during the medieval period. Mathas or mutts were established under different gurus or religious leaders like Vidyananya; Saivite movements came up like the Tamil *Saiva-siddhanta*, and the *Virasaivas* in Karnataka; in Maharashtra the *Varkarisampradaya* (tradition) of the devotees of Vithoba arose in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Buddhism had faded out in India. Jainism also lost ground in most parts of India due to emergence of bhakti movement under Sankara and Ramanuja. However, it continued to thrive in parts of Gujarat and Marwar, especially among the trading communities. With regard to Christianity, there were a small number of Christian groups in Kerala claiming their origins to the time of St Thomas, the disciple of Jesus. But Christianity took roots when the Portuguese arrived in Kerala and set themselves up in Goa. In Goa itself the local population was under great pressure to convert to Christianity, among the fishing communities on the Pandyan coast. The best known among the Jesuit missionaries was St Francis Xavier



Roberto de Nobili

who was instrumental in making the fishing community to take to Christianity in the Tuticorin region. Another notable Jesuit was Roberto de Nobili, a scholar, who was based in Madurai.

In the north a new religion, Sikhism, was founded by Guru Nanak, who lived during 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century. Sikhism grew in strength in spite of severe repression by Aurangzeb. Foreign religions also came to India when Jews and Zoroastrians (Parsis) migrated to India. The Parsis, who fled Persia to escape persecution, settled in Gujarat, while the Jews lived in Kerala. Parsi merchants were among the richest and most prominent in the port of Surat, and subsequently, in Bombay under the British.

### 7.4 Culture

#### Literature, Art and Architecture

The Chola period was an era of remarkable cultural activity. These were the centuries when major literary works were written. The best known classical poet, Kamban, wrote Ramayana in Tamil which was formally presented (Arangetram) in the temple at Srirangam. Sekkilar's *Periyapuranam*, similarly was presented at the temple in Chidambaram. Among the other great works of the period is *Kalingattup-parani* and *Muvarula*.

The monumental architecture of the Cholas is visible in the great temple of Tanjavur, Gangai-konda-cholapuram and Darasuram, to name only a few. Stone images were sculpted on the temple walls and pillars. Bronze images of great beauty and artistry were made by the 'lost wax' process. The best known of them is the iconic representation of Siva as Nataraja, performing the cosmic dance.

A distinct Islamic cultural tradition developed in India with the establishment of Muslim rule. The sultans built forts, tombs, mosques and other monuments in Delhi as well as in south India which came under their rule. The Mughal period particularly was a brilliant epoch in the cultural history of

India. The Mughals were well-known for their aesthetic values, and were great patrons of the arts. They left behind numerous monuments, in addition to constructing entire cities like Shahjahanabad (Delhi) and Fatehpur Sikri, gardens, mosques and forts. Decorative arts – especially jewellery set with precious and semi-precious gems for items of personal use – flourished under the patronage of the royal household and urban elites. The art of painting also flourished in the Mughal period. Primarily known as Mughal miniatures, they were generally intended as book illustrations or were single works to be kept in albums. A large volume of literature was produced, especially in Persian, and also in Urdu, Hindi and other regional languages. In the performing arts, like Hindustani the name of Tansen is well-known indicating the patronage extended to classical music under Akbar.



Fatehpur Sikri Fort

In south India, the Vijayanagar rulers and their military chiefs actively supported temple construction. Many new temples were built by them. Besides this, new structures like pavilions and halls with many pillars were added extensively to existing temples, with elaborately carved pillars. Art historians point to the distinctive style of the temple sculptures of the Vijayanagar period. The intricately carved lofty towers or *gopurams* at the entrance to temples were all added during the Vijayanagar period. The walls of the temples were embellished with paintings.



Hampi

A large volume of religious literature, especially in Sanskrit, was produced under the patronage of the nayakas and the Vijayanagar rulers. Telugu literature flourished under royal support. A new style of Tamil literature called Prabandham emerged during this period. The great commentaries of the epic Silappadikaram and Tirukkural were also written during this period. Venkatamakhi, son of Govindha Dikshidar who codifying the ragas of Carnatic music had lived in this period.

## 7.5 Economy

### 7.5 (a) Agriculture



India was predominantly an agricultural country, and a very large proportion of the population lived in rural areas and depended on agriculture for their livelihood. Both in the north and the south, agriculture depended heavily on irrigation. Canals and wells added to the water sources in addition to rainfall and rivers. The biggest network of canals known in India was built in fourteenth century by Firuzshah Tughluq in the Delhi area. Construction of lakes, tanks and reservoirs with sluices to let out the water as well as the use of check dams all increased the availability of water for irrigation. Cultivators were also encouraged to dig wells. Lift irrigation was used to draw the water. In the north, the Persian wheel was used for lifting water from wells. In the Tamil region, the Cholas had created a network of canals for irrigation

connecting the tributaries of Kaveri. Lakes and tanks also added to the water sources.



Persian Wheel

An important feature of Indian agriculture was the large number of crops that were cultivated. The peasant in India was more knowledgeable about many crops as compared to peasants in most of the world at the time. A variety of food grains like wheat, rice, and millets were grown apart from lentils and oilseeds. Many other commercial crops were also grown such as sugarcane, cotton and indigo. Other than the general food crops, south India had a regional specialization in pepper, cinnamon, spices and coconut.

In general, two different crops were grown in the different seasons, which protected the productivity of the soil. Maize and tobacco were two new crops which were introduced after the arrival of the Europeans. Many new varieties of fruit or horticultural crops like papaya, pineapple, guava and cashew nut were also introduced which came from the west, especially America. Potatoes, chillies and tomatoes also became an integral part of Indian food.

### 7.5 (b) Non Agricultural Production

Up to the end of the seventeenth century, India was one of the largest manufacturing countries in the world though the economy was primarily agricultural. Non-agricultural production refers to both processed agricultural products and craft production. Primarily the products can be grouped under: processed

agricultural products like sugar, oil, textiles; metal work; precious gems and jewellery; ship building; ornamental wood and leather work; and many other minor products.

The organization of production basically depended on the nature of the market for which it was produced. A large part of the production was intended for local use in the village, or at most a rural region. These goods were basic utilitarian goods like pots and pans, implements like ploughs, basic woodwork and coarse textiles. Generally the producer marketed the product himself, and exchange was probably conducted on barter.

In economic terms, what was important was specialized production by skilled craftsmen for an external market, especially in demand among the high income rural and urban upper classes. Such craft production was generally located in cities, or in rural settlements close to the cities. Craftsmen generally worked on an individual or family basis from their homes or workshops though larger manufacturing units (*karkhanas*) employing many craftsmen were set up under the Mughal state.

### 7.5 (c) Textiles

Nearly all the cloth that was produced was of cotton, though silk weaving had developed in Bengal where silk was produced, and in Gujarat. Each region of India produced a range of highly specialized local varieties of cotton cloth ranging from the coarse to the superfine, but all were intended for an external market. Dyed and printed/patterned cloth involved the use of vegetable dyes. India had two natural advantages in cotton weaving. The first was that cotton grew in almost all parts of India, so that the basic raw material was easily available. Second, the technology of producing a permanent colour on cotton using vegetable dyes was known from very early times in India. Cotton does not absorb dyes without a preparatory process using mordants, which was not known in the rest of the world. Indigo was the most important dye crop that was grown

in India, but other dye crops (like the chay root for red colour) were also grown in India. Dye woods and resins like lac were imported. In addition, a range of colours were produced by using flowers and fruits, and products like turmeric in various combinations.



Textile Production

### 7.5 (d) Commerce

The large manufacturing sector essentially produced goods for exchange, and not for self-use. Therefore, India had an extensive network of trade for marketing these goods. The village was the basic geographical unit of production, and was essentially a subsistence economy and barter was the medium of exchange.

Big cities were usually major commercial centres, with bazaars and shops. They were also intermediate points in inter-regional trade since they were connected by a network of roads to other centres in other parts of the country. In addition to such overland trade, smaller ships and boats were used in coastal trade along both the western and eastern coasts of the country. Finally, the major ports (Surat, Masulipatnam, Calicut etc.) were the nodal points in international, maritime trade.

Maritime trade across the Indian Ocean, extending from China in the east to Africa in the west, had flourished for many centuries. Thus ports like Malacca, Calicut etc. were 'entrepôts' or intermediate points in this regionally segmented trade. In the seventeenth century, Surat in Gujarat, Masulipatnam in the Golkonda kingdom, Chittagong in Bengal, Pulicat (Pazhaverkadu) and Nagapatnam on the Coromandel Coast, and Calicut in Kerala were all major ports in Asiatic trade.

India was also a major exporter of textiles, pepper, precious and semi-precious gems – especially diamonds which were then found only in India – and iron and steel which were greatly in demand in the entire Asian region. Textiles accounted for nearly 90 per cent of the total exports from India. The major imports from China and the east were silk, Chinese ceramics, gold, spices, aromatic woods and camphor. Silk, drugs, dye woods and sugar were the main imports from Persia, while gold, ivory and slaves were brought in from east Africa.

## 7.6 Urbanization

Travellers coming to India in the medieval period noted that there were a number of urban centres of various sizes, from cities to small market towns throughout India, though the country was primarily rural. The urban population was probably quite small as a proportion of the total, but it had an economic and cultural significance which was much greater than its actual size.

What were the factors which facilitated urbanization? It has been observed that cities and towns fulfilled diverse and overlapping roles in the economy. The large cities were centres of manufacturing and marketing, banking and financial services. They were usually located at the intersection of an extensive network of roads

In South India, especially the Tamil region, urbanization went hand in hand with temples. Temples were large economic enterprises requiring a variety of goods and services to function. They needed and employed a large number of people to man the religious services, the kitchens and for other work. Devotees coming to worship at the temple needed many services and goods, so that temple towns also became marketing centres.

### Conclusion

The medieval period covering more than seven hundred years of Indian history was a time when momentous changes took place in the political landscape which also transformed the social and economic fabric of the country.

## Events happening in Europe during this Period

### Holy Roman Empire & Emperor Charlemagne

In the beginning of the 9<sup>th</sup> century A.D. (C.E.), a new institution called Holy Roman Empire came into existence in continental Europe. This had nothing to do with the old Roman Empire which had ceased to exist after 476 A.D. (C.E.). The newly established Holy Roman Empire represented Christianity and Christendom and, hence, it was designated holy. The emperor was supposed to be a Representative of God on earth like the Pope. The emperor dealt with political matters, while the Pope dealt with the spiritual. The Emperor was superior to everybody else in the world, except the Pope. Charlemagne, the king of Franks, was the first Holy Roman Emperor to assume the title (800 A.D. (C.E.)). Charlemagne was a contemporary of Pallava king Nandivarman II and Pratihara ruler Nagabhatta I.



Charlemagne and Pope Adrian I



King John signing Magna Carta

### King John and the Great Magna Carta

The nobles in England forced King John II to sign a Charter of Liberty in 1215 A.D. (C.E.). It is Magna Carta or the Great Charter. This Charter contained a promise that the king would respect certain liberties of the nobles and the people of England. The theory of the supremacy of the ruler which prevailed in the Holy Roman Empire was not accepted in England. King John of England was a contemporary of Sultan Iltutmish in India. Thus in England, we find that the king's power was checked early.

## Recap

- Major political changes commencing from the establishment of Muslim Rule in Delhi, are dealt with.
- The enterprising period of Cholas and the significance of Vijayanagar Empire in the south are analysed.
- The economy and the society during the Sultanate and the Mughal rule are highlighted.
- Occupational castes and conflict between Right and Left Hand Castes are explained.
- Progress in art, literature and music are discussed.
- Conditions of agriculture, trade, commerce and urbanization are examined.



## EXERCISE



### I. Choose the correct answer

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was the second stronghold of Ala-ud-din Khalji's expanding Kingdom.  
a. Dauladabad   b. Delhi  
c. Madurai   d. Bidar
2. The Deccan Sultanates were conquered by \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Ala-ud-din Khilji  
b. Ala-ud-din Bahman- shah  
c. Aurangzeb  
d. Malik Kafur
3. The establishment of \_\_\_\_\_ empire changed the administrative and institutional structures of South India.  
a. Bahmani  
b. Vijayanagar  
c. Mughal  
d. Nayak
4. Krishnadeva Raya was a contemporary of \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Babur   b. Humayun  
c. Akbar   d. Shershah

### II. Fill in the blanks

1. \_\_\_\_\_ were Europeans who arrived on the west coast of India.
2. The combined forces of the five Deccan Sultanates defeated Vijayanagar army in 1565 A.D. (C.E.) at the battle of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Vijayanagara evolved as a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The tempo of urbanization increased during \_\_\_\_\_ period.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ was the enterprising period in the history of Tamil Nadu

### III. Find out the correct statement

1. i) The establishment of the Vijayanagar Kingdom witnessed the most momentous development in the history of South India.  
ii) The Saluva dynasty ruled for a longer period.  
iii) The rulers of Vijayanagara had smooth relations with the Bahmani Sultanate.  
iv) Rajput kingdoms attracted migrants from Persia and Arabia.
2. i) The Nayak Kingdom came up in Senji.  
ii) The appointment of Telugu Nayaks resulted in the migration of Telugu-speaking people from Madurai.  
iii) Mughal Empire started declining from the time of Jahangir.  
iv) The Europeans came to India in search of slaves.
3. i) Mythical geneologies were collected by Col. Mackenzie.  
ii) Indigo was the most important beverage crop in India.  
iii) Mahmud Gawan was the minister in Alauddin Khalji's kingdom.  
iv) The Portuguese built their first fort in Goa.
4. **Assertion (A):** India was an integral part of maritime trade, extending from China in the east to Africa in the west.  
**Reason (R):** Geographical location of India in the middle of Indian Ocean.  
a. i) A is correct; R explains about A  
b. ii) A is wrong; R is correct  
c. iii) A and R are wrong  
d. iv) A is correct; R does not explain about A.
5. i) Gold images of great beauty and artistry were made by Cholas.  
ii) The best example for Chola architecture is Siva as Nataraja performing the cosmic dance.



- (i) is correct (ii) is wrong
- Both (i) and (ii) is correct
- Both (i) and (ii) are wrong
- (i) is wrong, (ii) is correct

#### IV. Match the following

- Portuguese – Bengal
- Tansen – Kottam
- Sericulture – Court of Akbar
- Angkorwat – Goa
- District – Cambodia

#### V. Answer the following briefly

- Write about the military expeditions of Malik Kafur.
- Who founded the Vijayanagar Kingdom? Mention the dynasties that ruled over the kingdom.
- Mention the two natural advantages that India had in cotton weaving.
- What were the factors which facilitated urbanization?
- What is sericulture?

#### VI. Answer all the questions given under each caption

- The arrival of the Europeans
  - Who controlled the spice trade from India?
  - What enabled the Portuguese to have control over maritime trade over the entire region.
  - How were the trading activities of the Europeans carried on in India?
  - Mention the enclaves of the Dutch, the English, the French and the Danes in India.

#### VII. Answer the following in detail

- Discuss the political changes during 1526-1707 A.D. (C.E.).
- Explain the commercial developments in Medieval India.
- “Chola Period was a enterprising period in the history of Tamil Nadu” – Elucidate.

### FUN WITH HISTORY

#### Student Activities

On the outline map of India mark the important places of medieval India. Collect pictures of architectural importance of the Cholas.

#### Assignment with teacher's guidance

Collect the pictures of Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

Arrange a debate in the class on the advantages and disadvantages of urbanization.



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## UNIT

# 8

## The Beginning of the Modern Age



### Learning Objectives

The objectives of this lesson are to acquaint ourselves with

- Cultural, religious and economic changes that shaped the modern world
- Humanism as an idea transforming the outlook of the people of the Middle Ages
- Protestant Reformation that emphasised more faith than rituals
- Discovery of America and new sea routes to the East leading to commercial revolution and establishment of colonies



### Introduction

In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, Western Europe underwent dramatic changes in the political, social, cultural, religious and economic spheres. The Italian humanist Petrarch's *Canzoniere*, German theologian Martin Luther's 'Ninety-five Theses' and Portugal Prince Henry's Navigation School heralded the dawn of the modern era. The Holy Roman Empire and the Roman Church became weak and discredited. In their place nation states, new Churches that emphasized individual faith, and a commercial revolution

based on mercantilism emerged. The modern era was characterized by freedom of thought, individualism, rationalism, and economic and scientific progress. In this lesson let us look at the changes ushered in by the **Renaissance, Reformation and Geographical Discoveries.**

### 8.1 Causative Factors

#### 8.1(a) Growth of Trade and Rise of Towns

With the decline of Feudalism, Europe was gradually moving towards urbanisation. This process started first in Italy because

of its prosperous Mediterranean trade. The Arabs brought spices from the east and then transported them by land to the ports of the Mediterranean region. Italian city-states such as Venice and Genoa profited immensely from this trade. Following the expansion of trade, a strong network of banking and financial institutions too developed in Italy. In this context, new ideas leading to the Renaissance, Reformation and Exploration through sea voyages were born.

### 8.1(b) Invention of the Printing Press

The invention of the printing press accelerated the process of modernisation. Earlier, manuscripts were written by hand on animal skin called *Vellum*. Only the privileged few could access them. Johannes Gutenberg (1394-1468 A.D. (C.E.)) invented the printing press in Germany in the middle of the fifteenth century. The printing press enabled the production of multiple copies of a manuscript and their spread all over Western Europe. In less than fifty years after the invention of the Gutenberg printing press, about six million books had been printed. The invention of printing press not only spread knowledge widely, but also promoted critical thinking.



Gutenberg's Printing Press

### 8.1(c) Fall of Constantinople

In 1453 A.D. (C.E.), Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, was captured

by the Ottoman Turks. This acted as a catalyst for the birth of Renaissance. It also led to the discovery of new land routes. Following the Turkish occupation, a number of scholars, artists and artisans left Constantinople, which was for many centuries the cultural capital of the Western world, to the Italian city states.

## 8.2 Renaissance

With the coming of the scholars and artists from Constantinople there was a surge of enthusiasm and interest in studying classical literature and art of Greeks and Romans in the Italian city states. This creative upsurge was reflected in their writings, art, architecture and music. This cultural florescence is known as the *renaissance*. The origin of the word renaissance is from the Italian word *renascita* meaning *rebirth*. Greek scholar Manuel Chrysoloras who taught Greek classics in Italy, Guarino and Giovanni Aurispa, to name just a few, visited Constantinople several times to collect Greek manuscripts. Later they printed what they collected. This provided stimulus to the flowering of renaissance.

### 8.2(a) Why Italy became the birth place of Renaissance?

Italian city-states such as Florence, Milan, Venice, and Rome profited immensely from the Mediterranean trade. This led to the emergence of a rich and vibrant urban culture. The rich families of these city states such as Medicis of Florence patronized literature, art and music. The highpoint of this period was between 1475 A.D. (C.E.) and 1525 A.D. (C.E.). Italian universities taught humanities viz., linguistic, grammar, rhetoric, history, science and ethics, which prepared the students for public life, commerce and administration. The study of humanities was so popular in the Italian Universities that students from all over Europe flocked there. Classical Greek and Latin literature introduced the idea of *Humanism* which got reflected in the paintings, sculptures, architecture, music and writings of that period.



## 8.2(b) Humanism in Literature

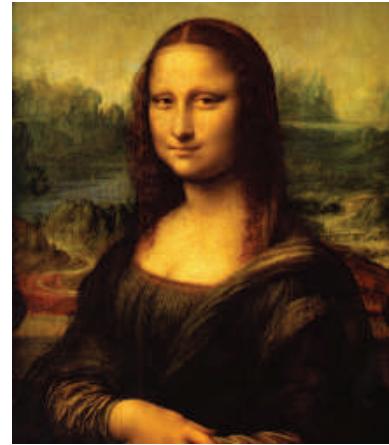
The idea of humanism was first expressed in literature. The humanists were critical of medieval ideas and institutions and criticized them satirically in their writings. They argued that man was endowed with reason and the ability to attain true knowledge and greatness. **Petrarch** (1304-1374 A.D. (C.E.)) was the first to adopt ideas of classical humanism in his works and is therefore called the **Father of Humanism**. **Dante**, influenced by the classics, wrote *Divine Comedy*. **Machiavelli** wrote a political treatise called *The Prince*. In this book, he wrote about the virtues that a ruler should possess. He declared that a ruler should be Lion and Fox in one. For him, the end was more important than means. Erasmus (1466-1536 A.D. (C.E.)), known as the *Prince among Humanists*, wrote *In Praise of Folly*, a satirical work on the activities and rituals of the Church. Sir Thomas More of England wrote *Utopia*, a satire on the political evils of his time. Cervantes of Spain wrote *Don Quixote*, another satire on medieval chivalry and valour.

### Humanism

The idea of humanism was a central feature of renaissance. It laid emphasis on human dignity and nature. In the medieval period, man was considered a mere agent of the God on earth to do his will. Renaissance humanism promoted the view that humans are endowed with attributes that are to be used to achieve greatness. It turned the gaze of the people from the other world to this world, from spiritual world to material world. The focus shifted from life after death to life in this world.

## 8.2(c) Impact on Art

Renaissance paintings and sculptures were realistic and naturalistic. They improved over medieval paintings and sculptures which were stylized, unrealistic and two dimensional. They portrayed natural landscapes, human anatomy, emotions and ideas.



Mona Lisa

In the field of art, great artists like **Leonardo da Vinci**, **Michelangelo** and **Raphael** dominated the scene and produced some of the finest artistic works. Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519 A.D. (C.E.)) was a versatile genius. He was a painter, sculptor, architect, military engineer, anatomist, and poet. His paintings of *Mona Lisa* (*La Gioconda*), *The Last Supper* and *The Virgin on the Rocks* are illustrious examples of his talent.



Madonna

Michelangelo (1475-1564 A.D. (C.E.)) was a painter, sculptor, architect and poet. His marble sculpture of David depicts the youthful strength and energy of the giant slayer. He is also famous for his paintings in the ceilings of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. Raphael (1483-1520 A.D. (C.E.)) painted beautiful *Madonnas* (Virgin and the Child). His painting of *the*



*School of Athens* reveals the ideological debate of his times, namely, the conflict between spiritualism and humanism.

### 8.2(d) Science during Renaissance

The advances in science were inspired by **Ptolemy, Archimedes, Euclid** and others of the classical period. In the medieval period the Aristotelian view that earth was the centre of the universe strengthened the Church's view of creation and its own centrality to mankind. However, the influence of Plato and other classics challenged it, laying the foundations of modern science. William Harvey discovered the circulation of blood. Copernicus proved that earth revolved around the sun through a mathematical model. Galileo provided further astronomical proof with the aid of the telescope he invented. However, he was forced by the Inquisition to withdraw his findings on the threat of death penalty. The Church thus continued to prevent the growth of science as it undermined its importance. Nevertheless, scientific discoveries and inventions continued apace leading to the Scientific Revolution.

### 8.2(e) Effects of Renaissance

The impact of renaissance was profound and far-reaching. Its most important contribution was the idea of humanism. It marked a definite shift towards individualism, secularism and nationalism.

The introduction and practice of writing in the vernacular, starting from Dante, enriched the growth of vernacular languages which in turn provided the intellectual basis for the rise of nation-states. Renaissance made a beginning in criticizing the corrupt and worldly practices of the Church. Erasmus and Thomas More indirectly encouraged the reformation movement.

The curiosity kindled by the renaissance played a decisive role in the discovery of new land routes and remapping of the world. The spirit of adventurism and quest for knowledge

impelled the mariners to sail into the high seas.

Similarly, inquisitiveness and empiricism of renaissance combined with knowledge of the classical science led to new inventions in science – Copernican revolution in astronomy and William Harvey's contribution to human anatomy.

## 8.3 Reformation

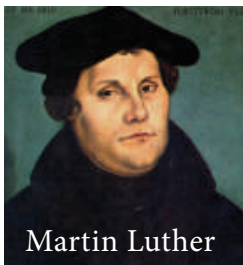
The Roman Catholic Church was a powerful institution during the Middle Ages. The Church enjoyed both spiritual and temporal powers (apart from religious control it also exercised political control in certain areas such as the Papal States). The Pope was its head. His office was known as Papacy. The Pope wielded spiritual authority over the Christians of Europe cutting across the territorial boundaries. He lived a luxurious life like a prince. Many of his officials were corrupt and the offices of the Church were sold for a price. The Church made the people believe that they would suffer in purgatory because of their sins. The people were further told that if they repented their sins and did penance, they would be absolved from sins and go to heaven. Otherwise they would suffer in hell. The Church prescribed a number of penances for various sins. People were made to believe that participation in the Mass (a ceremony in Christianity) would reduce the sins. The Church even began to grant pardon known as the sale of indulgences, (payment to the catholic church)

### Inquisition

Inquisition was an institution of the Catholic Church to deal with heresies beliefs in opposition to the Catholic faith. Those found guilty and who recanted were awarded milder punishments and imprisonment, and those who refused to recant were burnt at the stake. The most infamous inquisition was the Spanish Inquisition.

### 8.3(a) Martin Luther (1483–1556 A.D. (C.E.))

Martin Luther, a monk of the Augustinian Order and a Professor of Theology in the University of Wittenberg, was a devout Christian and a scrupulous follower of the Catholic faith. However, on his visit to Rome he was shocked by the luxurious life of the officials of the Church. At about this time, a church official Johann Tetzel came to Wittenberg to sell indulgences and Church offices at an auction. Martin Luther wrote a pamphlet against the sale of indulgences, sale of offices and other corrupt practices. He listed out ninety five points and pasted them on the Church door of Wittenberg. Later the points he raised became the famous Ninety Five Theses. Soon they were printed and circulated widely. When attempts of the Church to make him withdraw his criticisms failed, Pope Leo X issued a Papal Bull excommunicating him. Martin Luther signalled his revolt by publicly burning the Papal Bull. He was then summoned to the Diet that met at Worms in 1521 A.D. (C.E.). Luther attended the Diet to defend himself, despite his friends' cautions. He was fortunately saved by his patron Frederick, the Wise, the Elector of Saxony. Frederick hid him in his Wartburg Castle, where Martin Luther translated the Bible into German.



Martin Luther

Luther further elaborated his differences with the Church. He rejected the belief that ceremonies and penances would lead to salvation. He argued, that by faith alone that one could attain salvation. He put forward the doctrine of *justification by faith*. The grace of God would be bestowed by the divine will alone and not by the deeds of the people. Further, the Bible could be read and interpreted by all and not by the Church alone. Thus, he rejected the role of the Church as an intermediary between the individual and God. His teachings became popular throughout Germany. Not only many Princes but the peasants also supported Luther's

cause. Thus, Luther's reformation marked the first successful break from the Church and establishment of the Protestant Church. When some of the German Princes protested against the imposition of faith on them in the Diet of Speyer or Spires, they came to be known as the Protestants and the reformation that followed also came to be known as the **Protestant Reformation**.

### 8.3(b) Other Protestant Reforms

The Lutheran reformation opened the gates for other Protestant reformations. Though inspired by the very same reasons as that of the Lutheran reformation, they showed differences in their doctrinal approach.

Huldrych Zwingli (1484-1531 A.D. (C.E.)) of Switzerland and John Calvin (1509-1564) of Geneva followed Martin Luther in protesting against the Church. Like Luther they were also unhappy with the functioning of the Church and questioned the sale of indulgences and ecclesiastical offices. Zwingli worked from Zurich and was against all forms of rituals. Like Zwingli, John Calvin too opposed all forms of display of wealth. Calvin codified his views in his book *Institutes of Christian Religion*. He controlled the government of Geneva between 1541 A.D. (C.E.) and 1564 A.D. (C.E.).

In England, the reformation was brought about due to the personal reasons of the King Henry VIII. Henry VIII longed for a son who would succeed him to the throne. For this purpose Henry wanted to marry again and therefore appealed to the Pope to annul his marriage with Catherine. However, the Holy Roman Emperor was Catherine's nephew and he pressurized the Pope not to agree to his request. As the Pope kept evading his decision, King Henry VIII grew impatient and broke his ties with Rome. By a series of Acts he established a separate Anglican Church. He confiscated the properties of the Catholic Church and monasteries in England and declared himself the Supreme Head of the Anglican Church.

## 8.4 Counter Reformation

The Protestant reformation posed a threat to the Catholic Church. In order to meet the challenge Pope Paul III and his successors introduced a number of rigorous reforms in the Church. They dealt with corruption severely and stopped the sale of offices. The Council of Trent reemphasized the importance of ceremonies and the significance of the *mass*. It also pronounced that only the Church could interpret the scriptures. Further, it revitalized the Inquisition to deal with opposition to the Church. It also gave official sanction to the Society of Jesus. This reformation of the Catholic Church from within is known as **Counter Reformation**.

### St. Ignatius Loyola and Society of Jesus

St. Ignatius Loyola founded the Society of Jesus to propagate Christianity. Its main work was through education and service to the destitute. It started a number of educational institutions, orphanages and homes for the destitute. Soon their missionaries were present in all parts of the world to spread the Catholic religion.



St. Ignatius Loyola

## 8.5 Geographical Discoveries

### 8.5(a) Causes

Henry the Navigator of Portugal laid the foundation for long distance sea voyages. He established a navigation school to train sailors. In his school, he taught them how to use

navigational instruments such as the mariner's compass and the astrolabe.

The impulse for seafaring and adventurous spirit to explore uncharted sea waters was kindled by the curiosity generated by the Renaissance and the travel accounts of Marco Polo and Ibn Battuta. This was further fuelled by the crusading spirit of the Missionaries who dared to undertake dangerous voyages to spread the gospel to the non-believers in distant lands.

But the primary factor was economic. When the Ottoman Turks blocked the land route between the East and the West, spices and other goods became costlier. The European traders were deprived of the huge profits they were earning out of their trade in spices. This intensified the urge to discover a new sea route to Asia.

A breakthrough was made in the fourteenth century when a copy of Ptolemy's *Geography* was brought from the Byzantine Empire to the West. By the middle of the fourteenth century, thanks to the printing press, multiple copies were made and circulated widely. It greatly increased the knowledge of the sea routes.

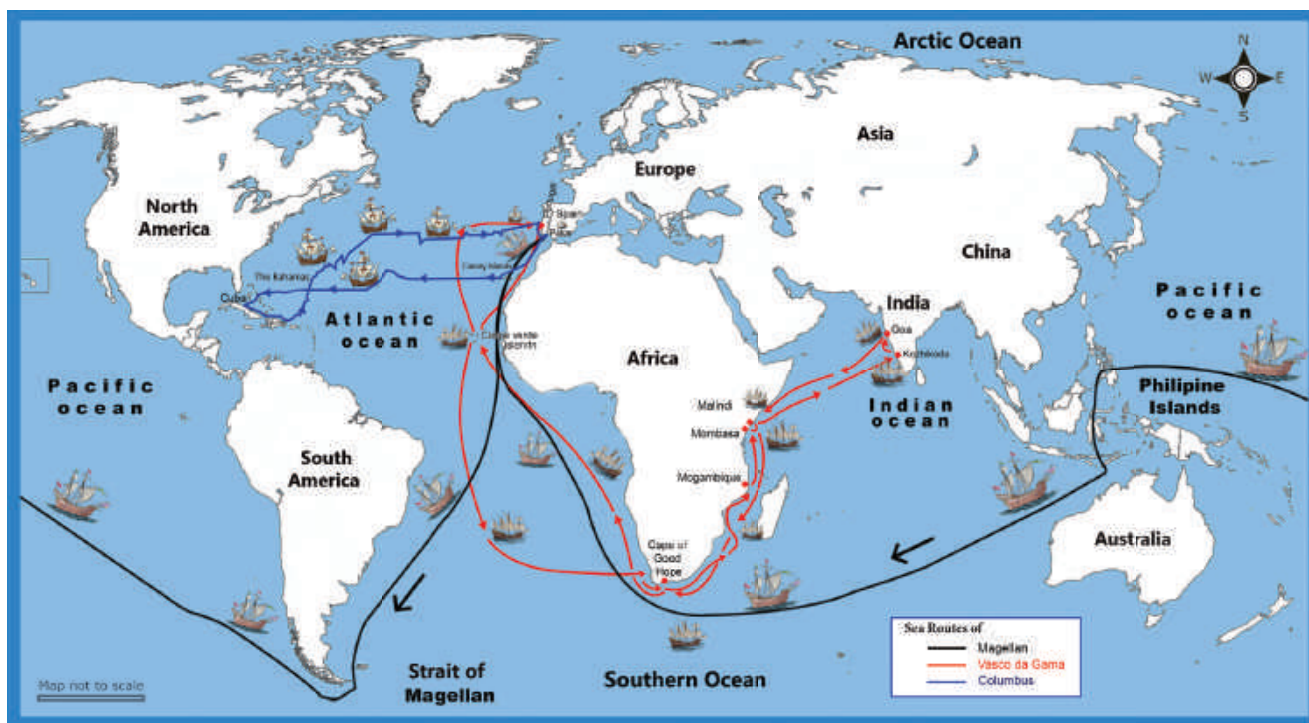
### 8.5(b) Portuguese Explorations

The sailors of Prince Henry had travelled into Atlantic upto the islands of Azores and Madeira. They explored the west coast of Africa. **Lopo Gonzalves** was the first sailor to cross the equator. Till then



Henry the Navigator

sailors did not dare to venture beyond, as they harboured fears about boiling waters and sea monsters. **Bartholomew Diaz** ventured further down the African coast reaching cape point or the southern tip of Africa in 1487 A.D. (C.E.). He named it the *Cape of Storms* as he encountered fierce storms there. However, King John II of Portugal renamed it as *Cape of Good Hope* as it provided hope to reach India by sea.



Sea Routes

The Portuguese established trading posts along the west coast of Africa dealing in lumber, ivory and slaves. The establishment of trading posts enabled them to buy slaves and transport them directly to Portugal. The slaves were employed in the sugarcane plantations, and sugar was exported to Europe. Slaves were purchased from the African slave market and transported to the colonies under inhuman conditions in slave ships. They were chained and cramped into narrow spaces with insufficient air to breathe. Many died during the journey. For those who survived, the suffering continued in the plantations. Slave trade increased with the discovery and colonization of America.

### 8.5(c) Spain and Discovery of the New World

In 1492 A.D. (C.E.), **Columbus**, with the support of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, set sail in three ships. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean and reached the Bahamas Island, Cuba and Haiti. Columbus thought he had reached the frontier areas of Asia. Hence, he called the natives he encountered as Indians. **Amerigo Vespucci**, another sailor, made three or four voyages and landed on the American mainland. He realized that it was not Asia and

that they had stumbled upon a new continent. Hence, he called it the New World. Later, a German cartographer, while preparing a map of the world, named the new world after Amerigo Vespucci and called it America.

### 8.5(d) Portuguese–Spanish Rivalry

The Portuguese claimed the territories discovered by Columbus. The dispute was referred to the Pope Alexander VI who drew an imaginary line north to south west of Azores and declared that the territories to the west of that line belonged to Spain and that of the east to the Portuguese.

In 1497 A.D. (C.E.) Vasco da Gama sailed from Portugal as the head of four ships to find a sea route to India by going around Africa. After reaching the Cape of Good Hope, he set sail to India with the help of an Arab navigator. On 20<sup>th</sup> May 1498 A.D. (C.E.) he reached Calicut on the Malabar Coast. At Calicut Vasco da Gama was astounded to find pepper and other spices, a precious commodity in Portugal, available at low prices. He bought as much spices as possible. Back home he earned huge profits.

Later the Portuguese navy defeated the Zamorin of Calicut and captured Goa and made it its headquarters for all its possessions in the East. Thus the foundation of the Portuguese Empire in the East was laid.



Vasco da Gama

In 1519 A.D. (C.E.), Ferdinand Magellan sailed westward and crossed the Straits, which later came to be known as Magellan Straits. As the sea was calm he called it the Pacific Ocean. On reaching an island he named it as Philippines after the Spanish Prince Philip. He was killed in a war with the locals. However, the ship in which he had travelled returned to Spain. Thus the first circumnavigation of the world had taken place.

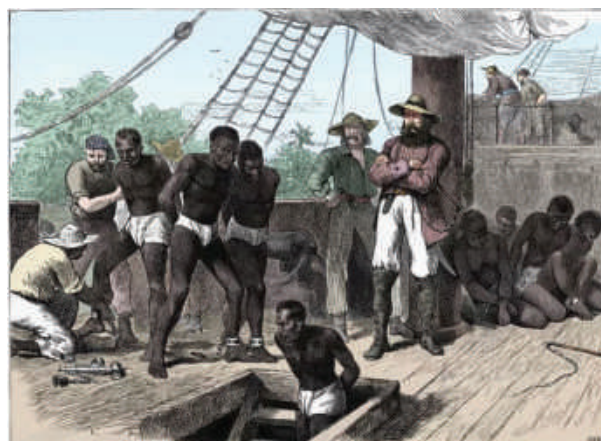
## 8.6 Impact of Geographical Discoveries

The geographical discoveries transformed the European understanding of the world. It led to the redrawing of the world map. As a result of the discovery of new lands and new sea routes, the economic centre of Europe shifted from the Italian city states to Spain and Portugal. Both Spain and Portugal established colonies that led to their economic prosperity.

One of the most important outcomes of the conquest of Americas by the European colonial powers was the movement of plants, animals, technology, culture and strange diseases between the Americas and Europe or between the **New World** and the **Old World**. This is known as **Columbian Exchange**.

Plants such as maize, potatoes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, pineapple, beans and cocoa, and animals such as turkey and guinea pigs, were transported from America and introduced in Europe. And from Europe went sugarcane, wheat, rice, horses, cattle, sheep and goats to America. Europe also exported deadly diseases such as small pox, measles, chicken pox, malaria, typhus, etc. Apart from guns and horses, the most dangerous weapons the natives had to encounter were these deadly diseases against which they were defenceless. It led to the near annihilation of the natives in most parts of the Americas.

The introduction of sugarcane led to the establishment of sugarcane plantations in the Caribbean islands and South America. These plantations initially employed natives. The mass extinction of the native population led to the import of slaves from Africa. Gambia, Senegal, Goree, El Mina and Congo became important centres of slave trade in Africa. The Trans-Atlantic Trade was a triangular trade. The European countries purchased slaves from Africa who were transported to America. In return they got sugar and other raw materials from America. The European countries profited immensely from this trade.



Ship carrying slaves

Geographical discoveries led to Commercial Revolution. The chief features of commercial revolution were the emergence of banking, joint-stock companies and growth of trade.



As a result of geographical discoveries, the seventeenth century witnessed the emergence of various East India Companies such as the English East India Company, the Dutch East India Company, and the French East India Company.

The Portuguese, after discovering a new sea route to India, enforced its monopoly on the spice trade of East Indies, eliminating competition of the Arabs, Egyptians and Venetians by use of military force. The Spaniards established monopoly over the mining and transportation of gold and silver in its colonies in the New World.

The English East India Company had monopoly trade in India and amassed huge wealth. Thus, the chief feature of mercantilism was exploitation of the resources of the colonies for the benefit of the colonisers. It represented an important stage in the development of modern capitalism.

## Recap

- The Renaissance, Reformation and Geographical Discoveries are heralds of the modern age.
- The new ideas of humanism, individualism, rationalism and nationalism provided the basis for the beginning of an era of enlightenment.
- Scientific development led to invention of new instruments and discovery of new sea routes to the east.
- There were revolutionary changes in political, economic and cultural spheres.

## India at the dawn of Modern Age in Europe

The Mughal rule had started since 1526 A.D. (C.E.). Vijayanagar state, founded in 1336, was a great power under Krishnadeva Raya (1509-29 A.D. (C.E.)). Portuguese established their empire in the East (India, Malacca, Ceylon) and controlled the sea with Goa as headquarters. In Tamilnadu Madurai Nayak rule began dividing the Pandya kingdom into seventy two *palayams*. The arrival of Jesuit Missions and the work of St. Francis Xavier, as a member of Society of Jesus, led to conversion of fishing community to Christianity (Catholicism) in Thoothukudi region.



Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal



## EXERCISE



### I. Choose the correct answer

1. Who among the following is known as the Father of Humanism?
  - a. Leonardo da Vinci
  - b. Francisco Petrarch
  - c. Erasmus
  - d. Thomas More
2. The *School of Athens* was painted by
  - a. Raphael Sanzio
  - b. Michelangelo
  - c. Albrecht Durer
  - d. Leonardo da Vinci
3. William Harvey discovered \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Heliocentric theory
  - b. Geocentric theory
  - c. Gravitational force
  - d. Circulation of blood
4. Who wrote the *95 Theses*?
  - a. Martin Luther
  - b. Zwingli
  - c. John Calvin
  - d. Thomas More
5. Who wrote the book *Institutes of Christian Religion*?
  - a. Martin Luther
  - b. Zwingli
  - c. John Calvin
  - d. Cervantes
6. Which sailor was the first to cross the Equator?
  - a. Henry, the Navigator
  - b. Lopo Gonzalves
  - c. Bartholomew Diaz
  - d. Christopher Columbus
7. \_\_\_\_\_ named the sea as Pacific Ocean as it was very calm.
  - a. Columbus
  - b. Amerigo Vespucci
  - c. Ferdinand Magellan
  - d. Vasco-da-gama
8. The continent of America was named after \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Amerigo Vespucci
  - b. Christopher Columbus
  - c. Vasco da Gama
  - d. Hernando Cortez
9. \_\_\_\_\_ was the headquarters of the Portuguese possession in the East.
  - a. Manila
  - b. Bombay
  - c. Pondicherry
  - d. Goa
10. Which among the following plants were introduced from America to Europe?
  - a. Sugarcane
  - b. Sweet Potato
  - c. Rice
  - d. Wheat

### II. Fill in the blanks

1. In 1453 Constantinople was captured by \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was known as Prince among Humanists.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is famous for his paintings in the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.
4. The reformation of the Catholic Church is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The chief features of Commercial Revolution were \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Find out the correct statement

1. a. Martin Luther broke away from the Catholic Church because he was discriminated.  
b. John Calvin's government in Geneva was liberal and fun-filled.  
c. King Henry VIII had deep theological differences with the Catholic Church.  
d. Council of Trent reemphasized the importance of ceremonies and significance of the *mass*.



2. a. Discovery of new lands and sea routes shifted the economic centre from Italian city states to Spain and Portugal.  
b. Horses were native to America.  
c. During the beginning of the Modern Age, State did not interfere in economic activities.  
d. The Portuguese collaborated with the Arabs in its trading activities in India.

#### IV. Match the following

1. Feudalism – Monopoly Trade
2. Humanism – Trial of Heretics
3. Inquisition – Movement of goods between America and Europe
4. Mercantilism – Hierarchical socio-economic structure
5. Columbian Exchange – Human dignity

#### V. Answer the following questions briefly

1. Explain how the invention of printing press influenced Renaissance, Reformation and Geographical discoveries.
2. Write a short note on the impact of Renaissance.
3. Outline the differences of Martin Luther with the Catholic Church.
4. Write a brief note on Counter Reformation.
5. What is Columbian Exchange?

#### VI. Answer all the questions given under each caption

1. Renaissance
  - a. Give reasons as to why renaissance originated in the Italian city-states.
  - b. Name some of the important humanists and their works.

- c. List the differences between medieval art and Renaissance art.
  - d. Describe humanism.

#### 2. Reformation

- a. Why did Martin Luther protest against the Church?
- b. What is the doctrine of *justification by faith*?
- c. Why did Henry VIII establish the Anglican Church?
- d. Mention the contribution of Ignatius Loyola.

#### 3. Geographical Discoveries

- a. Who is Henry, the Navigator?
- b. List the causes for the geographical discoveries.
- c. What led to the extinction of the natives of America?
- d. What is triangular trade?

#### VII. Answer the following in detail

1. Discuss how Renaissance, Reformation and Geographical discoveries heralded the modern age?
2. Examine the outcome of the geographical discoveries.

### FUN WITH HISTORY

#### Activities for students

In an outline map of World, mark, the routes of Bartholomew Diaz, Vasco-da-Gama, Columbus, Magellan.

Collect pictures of European explorers.

Create a model of Mariner's Compass.

Construct a model ship of medieval Europe.



### Assignment with teacher's guidance

Prepare an album with masterpieces of Italian art.

Write a brief biography of Martin Luther.

Visit the nearby printing press and compare it with the earliest printing device.



### INTERNET RESOURCES



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# UNIT

## 9

# The Age of Revolutions



## Learning Objectives

To acquire knowledge of

### I The American War of Independence

- The foundation of colonies by European powers in America and the later amalgamation and formation of 13 colonies under Britain
- Factors leading to the conflict between the colonies and England
- The opposition of the colonies to 'Taxation without Representation' leading to American War of Independence
- The course and outcome of the American War of Independence
- The American Revolution and the idea of democracy in the modern world



### II The French Revolution

- The causes for the outbreak of French Revolution, political, social, economic and intellectual
- Circumstances leading to the convening of Estates General and the defiance of Third Estate to the orders of the French Monarch Louis XVI
- The Tennis Court Oath and Fall of Bastille resulting in the overthrow of monarchy and establishment of National Assembly
- The National Assembly and the conspiracy of the dethroned king with other European powers to crush the revolution, leading to invasion of France by Austria and Prussia



- Formation of revolutionary government of National Convention. Execution of Louis XVI and proclamation of Republic in France.
- Abolition of feudalism, confiscation of church property, declaration of the rights of citizens and the introduction of a constitution
- Jacobins capturing power and the dictatorial functioning of Robespierre.
- The fall of Robespierre and the end of Revolution

## I

### 9.1 American War of Independence

#### Introduction

Three great revolutions in the eighteenth century brought about striking changes in Western Society: the American Revolution, the French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution. The American Revolution was the first political revolution. Though not so vital as the French Revolution, which was to shake the social foundations of Europe, the political changes engendered by the American Revolution provided inspiration for other anti-colonial struggles.

Thomas Jefferson, who drafted the “Declaration of Independence,” asserted even at the beginning of 1776 that Americans had ‘neither wish nor interest to separate from English monarchy’. In July 1776 the same Jefferson got his Declaration of Independence adopted at a “Continental Congress” of the 13 colonies with its assertion that ‘all men are created equal.’ It was a revolutionary statement at a time when respect to kings and nobles was universal. In this lesson we trace the foundation of English colonies in America and narrate the revolt of the colonies.

#### Colonies of European Powers

The Portuguese and the Spanish were the pioneers in geographical explorations and the founding of colonies. The English lagged far behind in their colonisation efforts. The

English possessed a theoretical claim to the North American mainland in view of the voyage of John Cabot (1497) off the coast of Nova Scotia. But they neither had the means nor the desire to back up that claim during the 16th century. Jamestown was the first British colony in America (1607). The ship *Mayflower* had taken a batch of Puritans from Plymouth, England, to America in 1620. They landed in the north and called the place New Plymouth. Another Puritan group led by John Winthrop set up the Massachusetts Bay Colony.



Ship Mayflower

Reformers who led a religious movement to reform the Church of England dispensing with the teachings and practices of Roman Catholic Church were known as Puritans. The Stuart kings, James I and Charles I, did not tolerate their attempts to reform the Church of England. The persecution of Puritans prompted many to leave England and settle. In the colonies they founded they organized a Puritan way of life.

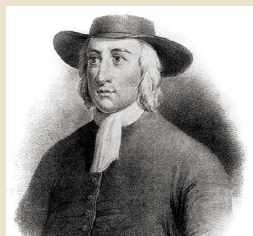
Many other groups before the Puritans had reached other parts of the North American coastline and soon many more followed, till there were colonies dotted all over the east coast from north to south. There were catholic colonies, and colonies founded

by Cavalier nobles from England and Quaker colonies (Pennsylvania was named after the Quaker Penn).



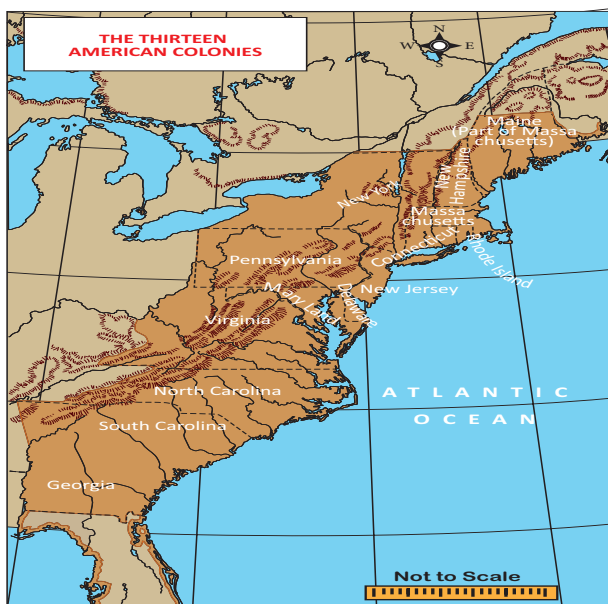
Puritans Fathers

Quakers were members of a Christian group called the Society of Friends who, while laying emphasis on the Holy Spirit, rejected outward rites and an ordained ministry. George Fox was the founder of the society in England. Quakers have the reputation of actively working for peace and opposing war.



George Fox

The Dutch founded a town and called it New Amsterdam. The English later changed the name to New York. There were also Germans, Danes and Frenchmen. By the end of the eighteenth century, there were thirteen colonies on the east coast all under British control. The 13 colonies (from north to



south) were: Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. By 1775, the population of the thirteen colonies had grown steadily reaching nearly 3 million, a third of Britain's population.

## Plantations and the Slave Labour

As the Native Americans resisted attempts to make them work in the plantations, the European planters, chiefly of tobacco, in the southern states– Virginia, Carolinas and Georgia– in their search for labour resorted to acquiring slaves from Africa. The innocent people of Africa were captured in man-hunts and sent across the seas in a cruel and inhuman manner. In the northern States conditions were different. There were compact farms, and not huge plantations as in the south. Large numbers of workers were not needed for these farms. Thus two economic systems developed in these colonies. Native Americans had no place in either of these. So these people were gradually pushed back to the west. This was made easier by the disunity and divisions among the Native American tribes.

## Increasing incidence of Taxation

Each colony had a Governor and the legislatures acted as a check on his powers. Thus, initially, there was no conflict between the British and American interests. The English King and many big landowners in England had large financial interests in these colonies. The Seven Years War of 1756-63 between Britain and France had centred on the control of colonies, especially in North America. Britain defeated France and took control of Canada. But the war cost the English heavily. The British ministers proposed that the American colonists pay some of the cost of the war. So a series of taxes were imposed on the colonists. It should be noted that the



Even before the arrival of Europeans in America, there was an indigenous population, called Native Americans (they used to be referred to as 'Red Indians'; it is now considered demeaning, and historians do not use this term any more), spread over the vast American continent. They belonged to various tribes and many of them were at war with each other. Besides they refused to work under conditions of slavery. Through a combination of violence and diplomacy Europeans conquered and defeated many of these tribes. Greatly reduced in numbers today they live in various reserves.



Native Americans

Americans did not have representation in the British Parliament.

The Sugar Act of 1764 prohibited and imposed duties on molasses, wines, silks, coffee and other luxury items. As the Act was enforced ruthlessly, it led to protests by merchants in legislatures and town meetings. The preamble of the Sugar Act provided the slogan 'No Taxation without representation'. Soon the Currency Act was passed that insisted on colonies repaying the debt only in gold or silver. It was a huge burden on the colonial economy. The Quartering Act of 1765 required the colonies to pay for the cost of keeping British troops in America. The Stamp Act (1765) required that many printed

materials in the colonies be produced on stamped paper produced in London, carrying an embossed revenue stamp.

## Townshend Acts

The British Finance Minister Charles Townshend introduced new duties on imports in 1767, known as the Townshend Acts. They introduced duties on imports to colonies such as glass, paper, paint, lead and tea. Further, the British officers were empowered to search homes and businesses for smuggled or illegal goods.

There were widespread protests against the Townshend Acts. Merchants of Boston organized boycott of British goods. Soon other colonies joined the protest. The women formed their own organization called the 'Daughters of Liberty'. The leaders insisted on constitutional methods and asked the people to remain calm. The British mobilized more troops to encounter the protests. This angered the people further. In March 1770, resentment rose in Boston, when troops fired on a crowd which had thrown snowballs at them. There was firing by the troops resulting in many deaths. This incident is known as the Boston Massacre. It led to intense anti-British propaganda through newspapers, posters and pamphlets.

As a result of protests and boycotts, the British Parliament repealed the Townshend Acts. However, it retained the tax on tea, with the intention of encouraging the business of the East India Company by making it easy for it to take its tea to America and sell it there. This harmed the local tea trade and so it was decided to boycott this foreign tea.

## Boston Tea Party

In many places the colonists obstructed the import of tea. In Charlestown, they unloaded the tea and let it rot in the dock. In New York and Philadelphia ships carrying tea were blocked. In December 1773, a group of men disguised themselves as Native Americans boarded the cargo vessels and threw the tea overboard.



Hailed as the Boston Tea Party, this was done publicly before a large sympathetic crowd. It was a challenge which led to war between the rebellious colonies and England.



## American War of Independence

In 1774, a little before war began between the colonies and England, George Washington stated that no thinking man in North America desired independence. And yet he became the colonists' commander-in-chief and later the first president of the American Republic. So the colonies did not begin fighting for the sake of independence. Their grievances were taxation and restrictions on trade. They challenged the right of the British Parliament to tax them against their will. "No taxation without representation" was their famous battle cry.



George Washington

### Continental Congress, September 5, 1774

Disturbed by the developments in Boston harbour, the British government appointed General Gage as governor of Massachusetts with a mandate to quell the resistance. It also dispatched troops to Boston and passed the Intolerable Acts which decreed that all those who broke the laws would be taken to Britain for trial. In May 1774, in the Virginia Assembly, Thomas Jefferson declared that 1 June 1774 would be a day of fasting and prayer. In response to this declaration, the colonial governor dissolved the assembly.



Thomas Jefferson

Thereafter, the members drafted a resolution to form the Continental Congress. Soon members joined from other colonies. On 5 September 1774 the First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. The Congress agreed to vote by the representatives of colonies and endorsed the resolution declaring the Intolerable Act null and void. It called for economic sanctions against the British. The Congress adopted a Declaration of American Rights.

### Second Continental Congress

The Second Continental Congress met on 10 May 1775 at Philadelphia. John Adams, Sam Adams, Richard Henry Lee and Thomas Jefferson were some of prominent members of the Congress. It organized the army gathered around Boston as the Continental Army and placed it under the command of George Washington. Still hoping for a truce, the Congress dispatched 'the Olive Branch Petition' to the king and adopted the Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms.

As the war progressed, the Continental Congress assumed the functions of government. In July 1775, it appointed Commissioners to negotiate with Native Americans. It also established a Postal Department with Benjamin Franklin as Postmaster-General. A Committee was formed to explore the possibility of foreign aid.

### Battle of Bunker Hill

On 17 June 1775 the Battle of Bunker Hill, the first major battle was fought in Massachusetts. The 2200 strong British troops were twice forced to retreat. On the third attempt British troops emerged victorious with a heavy casualty of nearly 1000 soldiers. After the battle Washington assumed control of the American forces. Soon the British forces retreated from Boston.

### Declaration of Independence

In January 1776, an anonymous pamphlet under the title *Common Sense* was published. It was authored by Thomas Paine who had recently migrated to America from England.



American War of Independence

It attacked the allegiance to the Crown and called for complete independence. More than 100,000 copies of the pamphlet were sold quickly. George Washington remarked, “*Common Sense* is working a powerful change in the minds of men.” On June 7, 1776 Richard Henry Lee of Virginia moved a resolution for independence. After much debate the Declaration of Independence, drafted by Thomas Jefferson, was adopted by the Congress on July 4, 1776. This day is celebrated by the Americans as Independence Day.

## War

On 2 July 1776, the British under General. Howe attempted to regain what they had lost. Washington was forced to evacuate Long Island. The main American army managed to reach Pennsylvania. While Howe waited in New York for the winter to pass, Washington made a daring attack on Christmas night at Trenton. The British forces were defeated in Princeton.

## French Alliance

In 1777 the British attempts at splitting the colonies into two by a campaign from the north failed. However, they managed to occupy Philadelphia. Washington’s efforts to take a town near Philadelphia were spoiled by Lord Cornwallis. But the British were defeated at Saratoga. This defeat paved the way for an alliance between France and the Americans. On 6 February 1778, France and America signed two treaties by which France recognized the United States of America and offered trade concessions. By June 1778 England and France were at war.

## Victory at Yorktown

In September Washington attacked Yorktown, with a combined American and French troops. On 19 October 1781 Cornwallis surrendered. In 1783, the Peace of Paris was signed. Great Britain agreed to the independence of the United States. The military band played the tune ‘The World Turned Upside Down’ as British forces departed from Yorktown in 1781.



**Cornwallis:** Born into an aristocratic family and educated at Eton and Cambridge, Cornwallis joined the army in 1757. Upon his father's death in 1762 he became Earl Cornwallis and entered the House of Lords, the upper house of Britain. His military action in the American War of Independence was praiseworthy, inflicting defeats on the American army in a few battles though finally he had to surrender his army at Yorktown. Despite this defeat, Cornwallis retained the confidence of successive British governments and continued to enjoy an active career. Knighted in 1786, he was appointed Governor General by the East India Company government in British India.



Cornwallis

## Results

The immediate result of the war was America's independence. For the first time a colonial power was overthrown by the colonised, leading to the establishment of a republican government in the United States. The colonists wanted to get rid of the feudal inequalities of Europe and they succeeded. For many followers of the Enlightenment in Europe, the language of the Declaration of Independence seemed a living fulfillment of their ideals. The Declaration of Independence of 1776 stated that "all men are born equal."

By 1777 nearly all the colonies had a written constitution. These constitutions protected individual rights, freedom of press and freedom of religion. The Continental Congress had drafted the Articles of Confederation. The Church and the State were separated. Thomas Jefferson in his Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom introduced freedom of religion. It was later incorporated into the American Constitution.

Lafayette, who fought the British on Washington's side through to the conclusive battle at Yorktown in 1781, later during the French Revolution served the French National Guard as its Commander. He penned the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen, with the help of Jefferson, which the National Assembly of France adopted on August 27, 1789.



Lafayette

## II

### 9.2 The French Revolution

#### Introduction

The French Revolution exploded in 1789. The French monarchy of the *ancien regime* (political and social system that prevailed in France before the Revolution of 1789) had enjoyed unchallenged power for 140 years. Louis XIV and his great palace at Versailles had symbolized royal absolutism and the greatness of France. Yet, in the summer of 1789, that power suddenly begun to shake. Louis XVI had summoned the Estates General in May 1789. This body consisted of the representatives of three classes or "estates," as they were called: the clergy (men and women ordained for religious duties), the nobles and the commons (comprising lawyers, rich merchants, bankers and businessmen and wealthy landowners). But the representatives of the third estate, namely the commons had refused either to bow to the nobles or to obey the orders of the King.



Tennis Court Oath

They proclaimed themselves a National Assembly and gathering on a tennis court after the King had cleared them out of their hall, swore on oath not to disperse until he gave them a constitution. Thus began the revolution of 1789 in France.

## Causes of the Outbreak

### Political

Louis XV succeeded his great-grandfather Louis XIV and reigned for fifty nine years. He learnt no lesson that the king is not above law but bound by law from the English Revolution and the beheading of the King Charles I. In 1774 he was



Louis XVI succeeded by his grandson Louis XVI. He was entirely under the influence of his wife Marie Antoinette, who believed, more than the King, in the Divine Right Theory of Kingship - the theory that the king was representative of god on earth and therefore for all his actions he was accountable only to god and not to anybody else. Both the King and the Queen were hated by the people.

### Economic

On the eve of the French revolution France was going through a period of economic crisis. The French treasury was bankrupt because of its involvement in the Seven Years War that ended in defeat. French participation in the American War of Independence made the financial condition worse. The luxurious lifestyle of the royalty and nobles in Versailles court, in contrast to the grinding poverty of the common people, made the people accept the new ideologies of French philosophers of the eighteenth century. The Finance Ministers of the King, Turgot, Necker, Calonne and Brienne one after the other suggested reduction of royal expenditure and taxation of the first two

Estates - the nobles and the clergy. Their advice was not only disregarded but they themselves were dismissed from service. To meet the resource crunch the government borrowed heavily resulting in a huge fiscal deficit. Nearly half the revenue went towards payment of interest for the loans. Under the circumstances, the French monarch Louis XVI was forced to convene the Estate-General, the combined body of three estates comprising nobles, clergy and commoners respectively.

### Social

The condition of the already impoverished peasants worsened due to a series of bad harvests. It resulted in the rise of the price of bread. The peasants of the countryside and the labourers and artisans of the towns were the worst affected. There were hunger riots at the beginning of the reign of Louis XVI. They were followed later by fresh peasant risings. A vast number of people had become professional beggars. It was officially declared in 1777 that there were eleven lakhs of beggars in France. The peasants were hungry not only for food, but were also hungry for land. They hated the nobles and the clergy because they enjoyed many privileges, notably exemption from taxation.

The clergy, despite being a minority, numbering only about 130,000, occupied a preeminent position in France. They collected *tithe* (one tenth of the annual produce or earnings) from the common people. The nobility, also a minority, numbering about 110,000, was a landowning class enjoying feudal rights. They collected feudal dues from the peasants. Their land was tilled by the peasants. The farm produce of the peasants had to be processed in the mills of the feudal lord. The traditional hereditary nobles known as *nobles of the sword* enjoyed hunting rights. They were against the rising middle class (bourgeoisie) or a new class of nobility, the status that was conferred by the king for their services. These nobles were known as *nobles of the robe*.



The middle class and the peasants together formed the Third Estate. The bourgeoisie (the capitalist class) were the privileged few but the bulk of the Third Estate was constituted by the representatives of peasants. The peasants paid taxes to the state such as *taille* (land tax), *gabelle* (salt tax), etc., and provided free labour (*corvee*) for the construction of public roads. Burdened by the demands of the state, nobility and clergy, the peasants were in despair at the prospect of dying of starvation.

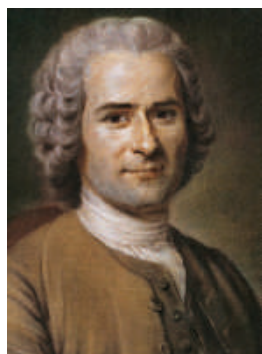
### Inspiration from French Philosophers

There were many notable thinkers and writers in France in the eighteenth century. The most famous writer of the time on rationalistic and scientific subjects was Voltaire (1694-1778). When imprisoned and banished, he had to live at Ferney near Geneva. Voltaire, Montesquieu (1689-1755) and Rousseau criticized the then existing conditions in France. Voltaire, was a prolific writer and activist, and was vehement in his criticism of the Church. His most famous work was *Candide*. His famous quote was: “those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities.” He is said to have once exclaimed, “I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”



Voltaire

Another great writer, a contemporary of Voltaire, but younger than him, was Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-78). His political theory set the minds of many afire with new ideas and new resolves. His ideas played an important



Rousseau

part in preparing the people of France for the great revolution. He famously said in his book *Social Contract*, “Man is born free, but is everywhere in chains.” He argued that the laws are binding only when they are supported by the general will of the people.

Montesquieu (1689-1755), who wrote *The Persian Letters* and *The Spirit of the Laws*, also defended liberty. He put forward the theory of separation of powers: The liberty of the individual would be best protected only in a government where the powers of its three organs, viz., legislature, executive and judiciary were separate. It would put in place the necessary checks and balances to prevent any one organ from assuming more power to itself.



Montesquieu

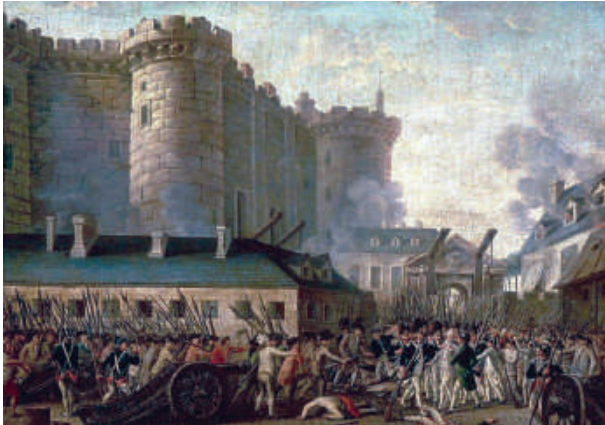
An Encyclopaedia also came out in Paris about this time and this was full of articles by Diderot and Jean d'Alembert. These philosophers and thinkers, opposed to religious intolerance and political and social privileges, succeeded in provoking large numbers of ordinary people to think and act.

### American War of Independence

The American Revolution that broke out in 1776 and ended with the establishment of the American Republic inspired the French Revolution and provided them with a model. The French participation in the American War of Independence supporting the American cause against the British directly affected the French Revolution in two ways: one, it cost the French treasury heavily and the other, the French like Lafayette who participated in the American War of Independence came back with democratic ideals and played an active role in the French Revolution.

## Course of the French Revolution

### The Fall of Bastille



Fall of the Bastille

The critical moment came after the king shut out the commoners and the latter assembled in the Tennis-Court and took an oath that they would not disperse until they found a way out to their problems. The King tried to use force but his own soldiers refused to obey his orders. Louis then intrigued to get foreign regiments to shoot down his own people. This provoked the people to rise in revolt in Paris on 14 July 1789. They stormed the Bastille prison and set free all the prisoners. The fall of the Bastille was the first great turning point in the revolution. 14 July is celebrated as the National Day of France to this day. The subsequent popular risings all over the country emboldened the National Assembly to act swiftly.

### National Assembly

This Assembly comprised moderate liberals, who wanted a constitution on the model of England and America. Their leader was Mirabeau. The Assembly was controlled by the middle classes and there was no representation to the peasants and the common masses. This National Assembly abolished serfdom, feudal privileges, including exempting nobles and clergy from taxation, even titles, and feudal courts. The Assembly then passed a Declaration of the Rights of the Man and the Citizen.

Declaration of the Rights of the Man and the Citizen: This declaration was drafted by Lafayette, Thomas Jefferson and Mirabeau. Based on Natural Law, that asserts that certain rights are inherent by virtue of human nature, the rights of humans were declared universal... and valid at all times and in every place. Inspired by the Enlightenment philosophers, the Declaration was a core statement of the values of the French Revolution and had a major impact on the development of freedom and democracy worldwide.



Mirabeau

The idea was taken from the American Declaration of Independence. But the American declaration is short, while the French one is long. The Rights of Man include the rights which were supposed to ensure him equality and liberty and happiness. The Assembly brought about many other reforms. The vast property of the Church was confiscated by the State. A new division of France was made into eighty departments. The old feudal courts were replaced by better law-courts.

### March to Versailles



March to Versailles



However, the crisis intensified in Paris due to the high price of bread. Riots broke out. The women of Paris marched to Versailles to demand bread from the King. The crowd was in an aggressive mood. The crowd demanded that bread be provided to them. The royal family, including the King, was mobbed. They forced the King and the royal family to go with them to Paris.

### Flight to Varennes

The King's position was increasingly shaky. He was not able to reconcile to the legislations passed by the National Assembly. He decided to escape from Paris. Dressing himself as a valet, he escaped along with his family to Varennes, a border town. However, he was recognized there by a postman, arrested by the National Guards and brought back to Paris. From then onwards, he remained in Paris virtually a prisoner.

### Girondins and Jacobins

The moderate liberals wanted to keep the King as a limited monarch. They called themselves the party of the Girondins. The hardcore republicans were the Jacobins. In foreign countries especially in England, there were the émigrés, the French nobles who had run away from the Revolution and were continually intriguing against it. All the kings and emperors of Europe, who were frightened by this mass upsurge were ranged against revolutionary France.

### Constitution of 1791

In September 1791, the National Assembly framed the first constitution. It provided for a Constitutional monarchy. The Legislature consisted of a single chamber of 750 members. The franchise was limited to those who owned a certain amount of property. The King



Marat

continued to be the Executive head, but his powers were considerably limited. But the common people who had stormed the Bastille were disillusioned with the developments and found another outlet for their revolutionary energy. This was the Paris Commune. This Commune was in direct touch with the masses. The Commune became the rival of the National Assembly composed of the moderate middle class.

### Emigres and the Revolutionary War

In August 1792 ordered an attack on the King's palace. Though the King ordered shooting by his Swiss guards, he was finally deposed and imprisoned. The people of Paris angered by the action of the Swiss guards in shooting and killing many of them hunted down the supporters of monarchy under their leader Marat. In three days, from September 2, about 1500 suspected dissidents were put in prison. After a trial, they were killed and this incident is called "September Massacres." In September also occurred the first victory of the French troops over the invading Austrians and Prussians at the battle of Valmy. This saved the Revolution. On September 21, 1792 the National Convention met.

### National Convention and the Reign of Terror, June 1793-July 1794

The first action of the National Convention was to proclaim the formation of a republic. The trial of Louis XVI was taken up immediately and he was condemned to death. He was guillotined. From the very steps of the guillotine, Danton, a great leader of the Revolution, addressed the assembled crowds and threw an open challenge to other European kings. The new republic of France, through conscription, built up a strong army.



Danton



The wars particularly against Austria, Prussia and later England engaged Republican France. As a consequence it was not possible to deal with local social problems.

In order to depart totally from the ancient regime, the Convention created a new Republican calendar for France. All references to religion found in the old calendar's name were deleted, and a 10-day week followed. In this secular calendar, the twelve months of the year were named after natural elements, while each day was named after a seed, tree, flower, fruit, animal, or tool, replacing the saints' day names and Christian festivals. (The republican calendar was abandoned by Napoleon on 1 January 1806.) The existing system of measures was replaced by a metric system based on the kilogram and the metre.

In September 1793 the Convention passed the Law of Suspects, which authorized the arrest of persons suspected of opposing the revolution. A month later twenty two Girondins' deputies of the Convention were tried by the Revolutionary Tribunal and sentenced to death. Thus began the 'Reign of Terror'.

Danton, Herbert and Robespierre emerged as the main leaders of the National Convention. However, they were divided on many issues. Robespierre controlled the Committee of Public Safety and eliminated his rivals. There was a massive peasant revolt in the Vendee partly because of the unwillingness of the peasantry to accept conscriptions. The Vendee revolt was suppressed with great cruelty. There was a strong movement against Christianity. The proponents of this movement proposed the worship of Reason. There was great Festival of Liberty and Reason in Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. But Robespierre was conservative in religious matters and neither he nor Danton approved of this movement. Herbert



Robespierre

and his supporters who had organized the festival were sent to the guillotine. This caused the first split in the Jacobin party.



Danton and others protested against Robespierre for sending too many people to the guillotine. But they were also executed. Surrounded by enemies and totally alienated from the people, Robespierre and his clique chose to intensify the Terror.



Guillotine

The Law of Suspects made spreading of false news to divide or instigate the people a punishable crime. Under this Law, large groups of persons were tried together and sentenced. This Terror lasted for forty six days. On 27 July 1794, the Convention suddenly turned against Robespierre and his supporters. The next day Robespierre was sent to the guillotine.

The Reign of Terror ended with the fall of Robespierre. Robespierre, the dictator of the Convention, though he was honest, patriotic and a person of integrity, earned notoriety by sending many of his colleagues to the guillotine. In October 1795 the Convention broke up and a Directory of five members assumed power.

The Directory was short lived and was replaced by the Consulate with Napoleon



as the first Consul. This Consulate was abolished by Napoleon Bonaparte, who later crowned himself as the Emperor of France. The Revolution thus failed, shattering the dreams of the idealists and the hopes of the poor. Yet the republican idea and principles of liberty, equality and fraternity continued to influence generations to come.



Napoleon as Consul

### Impact of French Revolution

The French Revolution had many lasting results. It marked the end of the system of absolute monarchy in France. All feudal privileges were abolished and the power of clergy was curbed. The Revolution united the people of different sections and paved the way for the enhanced power of the state. It also led to the growth of feelings of nationalism and the emergence of an assertive middle class.

Revolution upheld the theory of people's sovereignty and laid the foundation for the birth of liberal constitutional governments in Europe. Liberty, equality, and fraternity became the watchwords of freedom loving people all over the world and inspired many later day political movements for the establishment of liberal democracy in Europe and elsewhere.

## Recap

### I The American War of Independence

- The foundation of European colonies in the wake of discovery of America and Britain's triumph over other European powers in bringing 13 colonies under its direct control are described.
- The burdensome taxation and colonial exploitative policies of England, depriving the colonies of their autonomy and independence are discussed.
- The proclamation of the colonists 'No Taxation without Representation' prompting England to declare war against the colonies is explained.
- The import of tea against the protest of colonies triggered a revolt in Boston leading to the outbreak of American War of Independence.
- The important battles at Lexington, Bunker Hill and York Town between the Colonists and the British forces are highlighted.
- The Continental Congress Meet in 1774 and the adoption of the Declaration of American Rights, as well as the Second Continental Congress giving the command of the army to George Washington are detailed.
- The surrender of Lord Cornwallis who commanded the British forces and the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783, that recognized the independence of the United States of America, are elaborated.

### II The French Revolution

- The outbreak of French Revolution in the wake of summoning of Estates General by Louis XVI is explored.



- The privileged life of the nobility and the clergy is contrasted with the wretched conditions of peasantry, artisans and other sections of commoners who formed the Third Estate.
- The role of French Philosophers in creating consciousness and inspiring the revolutionaries to revolt against the unpopular monarchy is highlighted.
- The Tennis Court Oath of members of the Third Estate followed by events like storming of the Bastille and the historic march of women to Versailles are explained.
- The National Convention turning against Robespierre and sending him to guillotine is related.
- Setting up of Directory followed by Consulate and grabbing of power by Napoleon Bonaparte who later declared himself the French monarch are summed up.
- Though the rise of Napoleon marked the end of the revolution, the revolutionary ideals of 'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity' continued to inspire many later political movements and laid the foundation for the emergence of liberal democracy in Europe and elsewhere.

## Timeline

5 May 1789	Meeting of the Estates General
17 June 1789	Third Estate becomes the National Assembly
20 June 1789	Tennis Court Oath
9 July 1789	National Assembly becomes the Constituent Assembly
14 July 1789	Storming of the Bastille
27 August 1789	Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen
5 & 6 October 1789	Paris mob marching to Versailles
20 & 21 June 1790	Flight of the King to Varennes
10 August 1792	Meeting of the National Convention
2 & 3 September 1792	September Massacres
21 January 1793	Execution of Louis XVI
27 July 1794	Execution of Robespierre



## EXERCISE



### I. Choose the correct answer

1. The first British colony in America was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. New York                      b. Philadelphia  
c. Jamestown                  d. Amsterdam
2. The pioneer of French Revolution who fought on the side of Washington against the British was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Mirabeau                      b. Lafayette  
c. Napoleon                      d. Danton
3. Lafayette, Thomas Jefferson and Mirabeau wrote the \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Declaration of Independence  
b. Declaration of Pilnitz  
c. Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen  
d. Human Rights Charter
4. The defeat of British at \_\_\_\_\_ paved the way for the friendship between France and America.  
a. Trenton                      b. Saratoga  
c. Pennsylvania                  d. New York
5. \_\_\_\_\_ was the symbol of "Royal Despotism" in France.  
a. Versailles Palace  
b. Prison of Bastille  
c. Paris Commune  
d. Estates General
6. The forces of Austria and Prussia were defeated by the French Revolutionary forces at \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Verna                          b. Versailles  
c. Pilnitz                          d. Valmy
7. *Candide* was written by \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Voltaire                          b. Rousseau  
c. Montesquieu                  d. Danton
8. The moderate liberals who wanted to retain Louis XVI as a limited monarchy were called \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Girondins                      b. Jacobins  
c. Emigres                          d. Royalists
9. American War of Independence was ended with the Peace of Paris in the year \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. 1776                              b. 1779  
c. 1781                              d. 1783
10. Thomas Paine's famous pamphlet was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Common Sense  
b. Rights of Man  
c. Bill of Rights  
d. Abolition of Slavery

### II. Fill in the blanks

1. The Postmaster General of the Postal Department of the government of Continental Congress was \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The battle of Bunker Hill was fought on \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ Act insisted on repaying the debt in gold or silver.
4. The leader of National Assembly of France was \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ was guillotined for organizing a Festival of Liberty.
6. Louis XVI was arrested at \_\_\_\_\_ with his family when he tried to escape from France.

### III. Choose the correct statement

1. i) The Portuguese were the pioneers of naval expeditions.  
ii) New Plymouth was named after the Quaker Penn.  
iii) Quakers have the reputation of encouraging wars.  
iv) The English changed the name of New Amsterdam to New York.



- a. i & ii are correct  
b. iii is correct  
c. iv is correct  
d. i & iv are correct
2. i) The American War of Independence was as much a civil war as a war against the British.  
ii) The British forces emerged victorious in York Town.  
iii) The nobles in France were supportive of the rising middle class.  
iv) The British Parliament repealed the Townshend Act except the tax on paper.  
a. i & ii are correct  
b. iii is correct  
c. iv is correct  
d. i & iv are correct
3. **Assertion (A):** Merchants of Boston boycotted the British goods  
**Reason (R):** The British Finance Minister introduced new duties on imports into American colonies  
a. A is correct and R is not the explanation of A  
b. A is incorrect and R is not the explanation of A  
c. A is correct and R is the explanation of A  
d. Both 'A' and 'R' are incorrect
4. **Assertion (A):** There was a massive peasant revolt in the Vendee against conscriptions.  
**Reason (R):** The peasants as supporters of the king did not like to fight against him.  
a. Both A and R are incorrect  
b. Both A and R are correct  
c. A is correct and R is incorrect  
d. A is incorrect and R is correct

#### IV. Match the following

1. John Winthrop - France Finance Minister
2. Turgot - July 4
3. The Spirit of laws - Britain and France
4. Marie Antoinette - Massachusetts Bay
5. Seven years war - Louis XVI
6. American Independence Day - Montesquieu

#### V. Answer the following questions briefly

1. Who were Puritans? Why did they leave England?
2. What do you know about the Quakers?
3. Point out the significance of "the Boston Tea Party".
4. Attempt an account of "September Massacres".
5. Explain the composition of "Three Estates of France".
6. Sketch the role of Lafayette in the French Revolution.
7. What was the background for the storming of Bastille Prison?
8. What were the taxes the peasants had to pay in France on the eve of Revolution?

#### VI. Answer the questions given under each caption

1. Townshend Act
  - a. Who introduced this Act?
  - b. In which year was this Act passed?
  - c. Why did the colonists oppose the Act?
  - d. Why did the merchants of Boston oppose British goods?
2. Revolution in France
  - a. What was the tax collected by the Church in France?
  - b. Who was Danton?
  - c. Who were the Encyclopaedists of eighteenth century France?
  - d. Who provided free labour for the construction of public roads?

## VII. Answer in detail

1. "Taxation without Representation" led to the outbreak of American War of Independence – Explain
2. Highlight the contribution of French Philosophers to the Revolution of 1789

### FUN WITH HISTORY

#### Student Activities

If any Government becomes bankrupt like the Government of Louis XVI, what measures do you think are required to overcome the crisis.

Attempt a comparative study of American War of Independence and Indian Independence Movement.

#### Assignment with teacher's guidance

Attempting an account of Bastille prison.  
Reading the essence of Les Miserable (a historical novel by Victor Hugo)

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## ICT CORNER

### THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS

Through this activity you will know the States in their proper location on the map of United States of America.



#### Procedure

- Step 1: Use the URL or scan the QR code to open the activity page.
- Step - 2 Click the game icon to enter the game page
- Step-3 Click the Place of States game
- Step-4 Drag and put the States in their proper location on the map

#### URL:



Pictures are as indicators only



# UNIT 10

## Industrial Revolution



### Learning Objectives

#### To acquaint oneself with

- The essential features of Industrial Revolution in 18<sup>th</sup> century England
- Favourable Conditions prevailing in England for the Industrial Revolution
- Inventions that facilitated revolution in textile production
- Steel industry quickening the processes of industrialisation in England
- Rise of working class movement and its consequences in England
- Second Industrial Revolution in France, Germany and America
- Great Rail Road Strike and Hay Market Massacre in the US
- Impact of Industrial Revolution in India



### Introduction

In the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century major changes occurred in the method of production that changed the history of humankind. This profound transformation is described as the Industrial Revolution. Goods began to be produced not by hand but by machines. This increased the volume of goods produced exponentially. The changes were not only economic but made a profound impact on

society and politics. Society transformed from an agrarian and handicraft economy to one dominated by factory and machine-production. Starting in England first, it spread to other parts of the world. Although it was used earlier by French writers, but the term *Industrial Revolution* was popularized by the English economic historians to denote Britain's economic development from 1760 to 1840.





## 10.1 Attributes of Industrial Revolution

- Use of new basic materials: iron and steel
- Use of new energy sources: coal, electricity, petroleum
- Invention of new machines such as the spinning jenny and the power loom that increased the production with a minimum expending of human energy
- Emergence of a new organization known as the factory system, which entailed increased division of labour and specialisation of work
- Development in transportation and communication
- Increasing application of science to industry
- The use of new technology



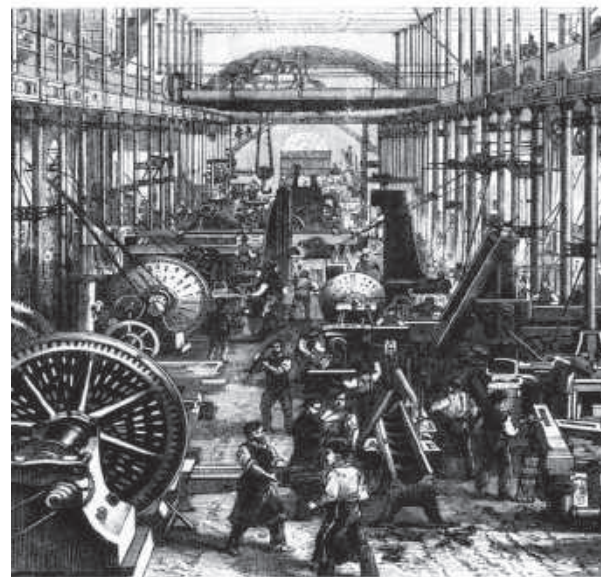
### Beginnings

The Industrial Revolution began in England first because, it had certain external factors. They were:

- England had abundant resources and possessed colonies, with “India being the brightest jewel in the British Crown”
- Access to coal, iron and raw cotton from the colonies
- England possessed the required infrastructure for textiles, developed by immigrant artisans from the Netherlands
- England had a developed banking system, a growing entrepreneurial class, and potential investors
- Encouragement of the Royal Society of England for scientific discoveries and inventions
- Political stability of England to bestow its full attention to industrial growth

### Invention of Steam Power

In the 18th Century, British mine-owners were faced with the problem of water seeping into the mines. Water had to be removed to extract coal. So they employed additional labourers to pump the water out. Employing human labour cost a lot of money. It was at that juncture the British engineer, Thomas Newcomen invented a contrive to pump the water out of mines. But the mechanism he developed consumed too much fuel. James Watt, a Scottish engineer, converted a stationary steam engine to a rotary engine which consumed less fuel.



A scene in an English factory

### Development in Textiles

Before the Industrial Revolution, the spinning and weaving of cloth were undertaken for domestic and local consumption. It was done at home or in a small hired place. The production also took place on a cottage scale. The manually operated spinning wheel required four to eight spinners to supply yarn to one handloom weaver. In 1733 John Kay invented the ‘Flying Shuttle’ which, when operated by hand, increased the speed of the weaving of cloth. In 1764 James Hargreaves invented ‘the spinning jenny’. This machine spun eight threads at one and the same time. Two years later Richard Arkwright invented

the 'waterframe'. This spinning frame used water power in the place of manpower. The 'waterframe' was too big to be run at home. Thus was born the factory. In 1779 Samuel Crompton invented his 'spinning mule' which included a combination of both the 'spinning jenny' and the 'water frame'. It spun hundreds of threads simultaneously and produced eight fine and coarse threads. Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in 1793, removing the seed from the cotton.



John Kay

James Hargreaves

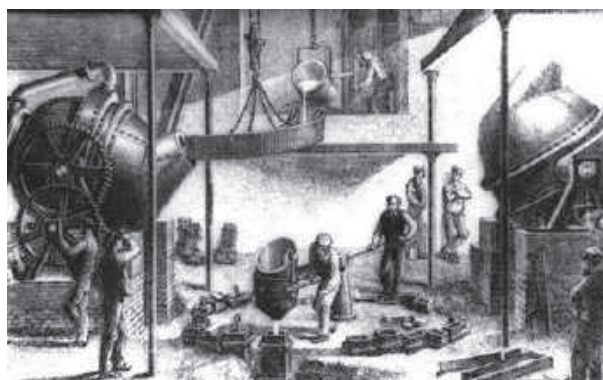
Textile manufacture was at the heart of the Industrial Revolution. Over a span of fifty years, the textile manufacturing industry in Britain witnessed a transformation in the method of production from handmade to machine-made goods. The newly invented machines enabled factories to produce textile goods in large quantities. Derbyshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire, and Yorkshire became the major factory centres. The most notable was Manchester which had more than 50 mills in 1802. These factories involved in mass production were organized on the principle of division of labour.



Lancashire

## Iron and Steel

The rolling mill (machine for rolling steel or any other metal into sheets) proved to be fifteen times faster than hammering wrought iron. Hot blast greatly increased fuel efficiency in iron production. In 1856, Henry Bessemer discovered a faster and cheaper method of producing steel. In course of time, iron and steel came to be used in making all machines and in all industries.



Iron and steel industry

## Mining

The development of factories by Arkwright and the improvement of the steam engine by James Watt further increased demand for coal. As a result, coal mines became deeper and deeper, making it more and more dangerous. As miners used oil lamps in the mines the risk of explosion was high leading to the death of miners. This was reduced by the invention of a safety lamp by Sir Humphrey Davy in 1815.

The coal production in England increased from 4.7 million tonnes in 1750 to 250 million tonnes in 1900.



Coal mines

## Transportation and Communication

Industrial Revolution was dependent on good transportation. As production increased raw materials had to be brought from afar to the factories. After the goods were produced they had to be transported to the markets. As a result new networks of canals, roads and railroads were built. Macadamised roads and George Stephenson's steam locomotive helped to improve road and railway transport system in the country.

John Loudon McAdam was a pioneering Scottish Engineer who single-handedly changed the way *roads* were built around the world. Macadamised road came to be adopted world over.

The railways date back to sixth century B.C. (BCE) in Corinth, Greece. They were man or animal driven. In the sixteenth century Germany had horse-powered rail transport. Modern rail transport commenced with the British development of the steam locomotives in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The first railway line in England was opened between Stockton and Darlington in 1825. In the next forty years 15000 miles of railway network was completed. Robert Fulton of the US invented the steamboat called Clermont in 1807 that sailed from New York to Albany, covering 150 miles. After a few years, steamboats carrying cargo shuttled on the rivers and coastlines. By 1830, the 40 miles between Manchester and Liverpool could be covered in an hour and a half.



The railways

## 10.2 Effects of Industrial Revolution in England

Industrial Revolution led to the expansion of trade, the production of more food, emergence of factory workers as a new class. The rise and growth of cities resulting in rapid urbanisation and organised working-class movements, seeking voting rights and regulation of their service conditions, brought about a new dynamics in politics.

### Impact on Environment and Living Conditions

The use of chemicals and fossil fuels that replaced wind, water and firewood resulted in increased air and water pollution. The Industrial Revolution marked a major turning point in earth's ecology and humans' relationship with the environment.

The Industrial Revolution helped create opportunities for employment for all members of the family. However, the life for the labouring class was miserable. Children were employed in textile mills because they worked for lower wages. In 1842, the British Parliament published a report about the state of coal mining – the Mines Report .

Safety was very poor in early industrial factories and mines. The injuries from machinery would vary from mild burns, arm and leg injuries, to whole fingers to be cut off, or amputation of limbs and even death.

The housing was tiny, dirty, and sickly for the labouring class. Workers had no time to clean or change their own atmosphere even if they wished to, leading to the outbreak of typhoid, cholera, and smallpox.

### Urbanisation

With the advent of the Industrial Revolution, England became the workshop of the world. There was however, a general decline in agriculture. This resulted in the flow of population from villages to industrial towns. Population growth, migration and urbanisation



were the major social changes taking place during this period. In pre-industrial society, over 80% of people lived in rural areas. As the migration from the countryside began to intensify, small towns became large cities. The city of London grew from a population of two million in 1840 to five million in forty years.

Manchester's cool climate was ideal for textile production. Further it was situated close to the port of Liverpool and the coalfields of Lancashire. Manchester became the textile capital of the world, drawing huge numbers of migrants to the city. In 1771, Manchester was a sleepy town of 22,000 people. Over the next fifty years, its population exploded and reached upto 180,000.

### Socio-economic Consequences

While the peasants were pauperized and the working class suffered, the middle class became wealthy by investing capital in trade and industry. The governments of the day were influenced by them. All legislations safeguarded their interests. Labourers were not permitted to form trade unions. It was under these circumstances that Socialism as a new ideology was born in Europe. Karl Marx advocated scientific socialism for the protection of the working class from the exploitative policies of the capitalist class. By the latter half of the nineteenth century there were strong working class movements all over western Europe which demanded economic as well as political rights.

### Labour Movement

The Reform Bill of 1832 granted voting rights only to the propertied middle class. Frustrated by this, the working class in a large gathering prepared a charter of demands and obtained signatures from millions of fellow workers. The charter was presented to the House of Commons (the English Lower house in the Parliament, England). Known as Chartism, this working class movement was active between 1836 and 1848. The Chartists called for voting rights to every man over twenty-one years of age, secret ballot (voting), abolition of property

qualification for members of the parliament, annual parliamentary elections and equal representation.

## 10.3 Spread of Industrial Revolution

### Industrial Revolution in France

France did not possess as much natural resources as England. The political instability caused by the French Revolution and the prolonged Napoleonic Wars wrecked the country. Many of those French businessmen who had sought refuge in Britain during the Revolution, on their return to France after Napoleonic Wars, used British technology. This helped to accomplish industrial revolution in their country. The adoption of British-made spindles led to a two-fold increase in French textile production during 1830-1860.

The Francois de Wendel family brought British technology to Lorraine. The family introduced steam engine in coal mining and puddling kilns for iron smelting. By the 1860s the de Wendel family employed over 10,000 workers. By diversifying its business, it entered other heavy industries such as railroad construction and shipbuilding.

The town of Mulhouse in the province of Alsace rose to prominence for its dyes that brought many designers there. From this foundation, Mulhouse diversified into the growing heavy industry of the region and became prominent as a maker of machines. Saint-Chamond saw developments in iron production. In 1820, the British technology of refining cast iron began to be used in this town.



Francois de Wendel

In 1832, the first French railroad, St. Etienne–Andrezieux line was opened. Numerous railroad lines followed. By the end of the nineteenth

century France had become prominent for its automobiles. The two biggest automobile companies of today's France were started in 1891. Arman Peugeot produced his first batch of automobiles. In 1898, Louis Renault built the *quadricycle*, from which he began to produce in large quantities under his company, the *Societe Renault Freres* (Company Renault Brothers)



Old model Renault cars

In 1806, agriculture employed about 65.1% in France. It decreased to 42.5% in 1896. During the same period industries had grown in its share of employment from 20.4% in 1806 to 31.4% by 1896.

## Industrial Revolution in Germany

Germany had the natural resources required for an industrial revolution. Large coal reserves were located in the areas of Saar, Ruhr, Upper Silesia, and Saxony. Iron was deposited in the areas of Erzgebirge, Harz Mountains, and Upper Silesia again.

Germany's main challenge was its feudal socio-political structure, perpetuating the practice of serfdom and their unhelpful licensure policies for establishing factories. In addition, only two major ports, Bremen and Hamburg, had clear and secure access to the North Sea. But the most significant challenge to Germany's industrial revolution was its political setup. Before 1871 Germany was made of numerous German states with Prussia being the biggest.

Cartel is an association of manufacturers or suppliers with the purpose of maintaining prices at a higher level and of restricting competition.

Railroads served Germany well in its industrial development as also in its Unification. The first railroad line opened on December 1835 and ran between Nuremberg and Furth. In 1842, the Prussian government created the Railway Fund in order to finance railroad construction project. In Prussia, Berlin became a centre of the railroad network. Railroads connected the members of the Zollverein and made trade and commerce more vibrant.

With the use of steam engines, the number of factories in Prussia grew from 419 in 1837 to 1,444 in 1849. The production of coal increased from one million ton in 1820 to over 6 million in thirty years. From 46,000 tons of iron produced in 1810, iron production rose to 529,000 tons by 1850. Railroads increased from 3,638 miles in 1850 to a distance of 11,600 miles in 1870.

In 1871, Prussia finally united Germany. Germany emerged as the most industrialised country by the end of the 19th century. Germany surpassed the home of the industrial revolution, Great Britain, and proved a competitor to the United States. In electrics, Germany offered companies like Siemens. In chemicals, Germany excelled in the production of potassium salt, dyes, pharmaceutical products, and synthetics. Companies like Bayer and Hoechst led the chemical industry of Germany. Germany became a leader in automobile industry. Daimler and Benz became the most popular brands of automobiles in Germany and the world.



Daimler Company

## 10.4 Second Industrial Revolution in United States of America

A shift from manual labour-based to more technical and machine-based manufacturing industry marked the Industrial Revolution in the United States. Samuel Slater, a citizen of England, having worked at a cotton mill from age 10, had gained enough experience to operate a mill. On learning that Americans were interested in the new techniques, Slater departed for New York in 1789 illegally. Slater offered his services to Moses Brown, a leading Rhode Island industrialist, who had earlier made an unsuccessful attempt to operate a mill. Brown agreed and in consequence the mill became operational in 1793, being the first water-powered roller spinning textile mill in the Americas. By 1800, Slater's mill had been duplicated by many other entrepreneurs as Slater grew wealthier and his techniques more and more popular. Andrew Jackson, the U.S. President hailed him as "Father of the American Industrial Revolution."



Samuel Slater



Andrew Jackson

The United States in the nineteenth century began to show technological innovation. Robert Fulton established the steamboat service on the Hudson River. Samuel F.B. Morse's invention of the telegraph and Elias Howe's invention of the sewing machine came before the Civil war (1860–1865).

In 1846, an American, Elias Howe invented the 'sewing machine' to stitch clothes. With the invention of new methods of bleaching, dyeing and printing, cloth with different colours could be produced during the early half of 19<sup>th</sup> century.

After the Civil War, industrialisation went on at a frantic pace. In 1869, the first transcontinental railroad was completed to transport people, raw materials and products. There was unprecedented urbanisation and territorial expansion in the US. As a result, between 1860 and 1900, fourteen million immigrants came to the country, providing workers for a variety of industries. The invention of electric bulb by Thomas Alva Edison (1879) and telephone by Alexander Graham Bell (1876) changed the world beyond recognition.

Andrew Carnegie established the first steel mills in the U.S for mass production. He acquired business interests in the mines that produced the raw materials for steel, the mills and



John D. Rockefeller ovens that created the final product and the railroad and shipping lines that transported goods, thus controlling every aspect of the steelmaking process. John D. Rockefeller merged the operation of many large companies to form a trust. His Standard Oil Trust came to monopolise 90% of the industry and reduced competition. These monopolies affected the smaller companies and even threatened them. The U.S. government supported the industrial growth by providing land for construction of railroads and protected the American industry from foreign competition.

The Industrial Revolution quickened the process of the transition of the United States from a rural to an urban society. Young people raised on farms saw greater opportunities in the cities and moved there, as did millions of immigrants from Europe. Providing housing for all the new residents of cities was a problem, and many workers found themselves living in urban slums; open sewers ran alongside the streets, and the water supply was often contaminated, causing disease.

## 10.5 Working Class Strikes

The difficult working conditions in the factories, long hours of work, low wages,



Railroad Strike of 1877

exploitation of women and children contributed to the growth of labour unions. After the Civil War, workers organized strikes. One major strike was the Great Railroad Strike of 1877. Wage cuts in the railroad industry, in the context of a prolonged economic depression, led to the strike, which began in West Virginia and spread to three additional states over a period of 45 days before being crushed



by a combination of vigilantes, National Guardsmen, and Federal Army.

### Haymarket Massacre

A labour protest took place on 4 May 1886, at Haymarket Square in Chicago. What began as a peaceful rally in support of workers striking for an eight-hour day resulted in the killing of several workers by the police. To commemorate the Haymarket Affair 1 May 1887 is observed as the Labour Day or May Day or International Worker's Day.



Haymarket Massacre

## 10.6 Important Inventions of the Industrial Revolution Era

Inventions	Inventor	Year
Blast Furnace (Iron & Steel)	Abraham Darby	1709
Steam Engine	Thomas Newcomer	1712
Flying Shuttle (Textiles)	John Kay	1733
Improved Darby Process (Iron & Steel)	John Smeaton	1760
Spinning Jenny (Textiles)	James Hargreaves	1764
Spinning Frame (Waterframe) (Textiles)	Richard Arkwright	1769
Newcomen's Steam Engine Redesigned	James Watt	1769
Spinning Mule (Textiles)	Samuel Crompton	1779
Power Loom (Textiles)	Edmund Cartwright	1785
Cotton Gin (Textiles)	Eli Whitney	1793
Puffing Devil (the first steam powered locomotive)	Richard Trevithick	1801
Air Pump (in Mines)	John Bundle	1807
The Butcher (Locomotive)	George Stephenson	1814
Safety Lamp (for Mining)	Humphrey Davy	1815



Telegraph; Morse Code (Communication)	Samuel Morse	1844
Sewing Machine (Textiles)	Elias Howe	1846
Cheaper method of Making Steel (Iron & Steel)	Henry Bessemer	1856
Telephone	Alexander Graham Bell	1876
Incandescent Electric Bulb	Thomas Alva Edison	1879
Wireless Signals (Communication)	Marconi	1899

## 10.7 Impact of Industrial Revolution in India

Until the middle of eighteenth century, England was an agricultural country and India was known for its excellence in manufactures as well as in agriculture. In the first quarter of eighteenth century, in the context of Indian cotton manufactures flooding in England, a law was enacted prohibiting the use of Indian calicoes and silks. The invention of flying shuttle by John Kay and the inventions of Hargreaves, Arkwright and Crompton within thirty years accelerated the process of spinning and weaving. When the British established their foothold in Bengal as a territorial power, the loot from Bengal and the Carnatic provided the required capital and helped accomplish Industrial Revolution in England. The weavers of Bengal suffered at the hands of the Company's officials and their agents, who first insisted on payment of a transit duty for the commodities they carried from one place to another and later for cultivation of commercial crops required for British industries in England. Because of loss of market for hand-woven cotton goods, India lost her old industrial position and became an exporter of raw material.

By the first quarter of nineteenth century the export of Dacca muslin to England stopped. Even the export of raw cotton from India had steadily dwindled owing to the competition from USA. Weavers who were eking out an independent livelihood were thrown out of employment because of

flooding of British factory-made cheap cotton fabrics in Indian markets.

The Collector of Madurai reported that families of about 5000 weavers did not have the means to take more than one meal of rice a day. The Collector of Tirunelveli observed that the weaving population has 'outrun its means of subsistence and trammels of caste prevent them from taking to other work.' Millions died of starvation in famines. To escape starvation deaths, peasants and artisans had to move out of the country opting to working on plantations in British Empire colonies as indentured (penal contract) labourers under wretched service and living conditions.

### Recap

- The main attributes of Industrial Revolution are presented
- Reasons for Industrial Revolution taking place first in England are explained
- Inventions leading to development in textiles are discussed
- Use of iron and steel leading to mechanisation of all industries and the rapid changes in transport and communication are detailed
- Impact of Industrial Revolution on environment and living conditions are highlighted
- Spread of Industrial Revolution in France, Germany and America are dwelt at length



- Labour movement and the repressive measures of the state in the US are particularly focused to demonstrate that the rights of working class were obtained after struggles and sacrifices



## EXERCISE



### I. Choose the correct answer

- Who established the first steam boat service?
  - Arkwright
  - Samuel Crompton
  - Robert Fulton
  - James Watt
- Why was Manchester considered ideal for textile production?
  - availability of land
  - rich human resources
  - better living condition
  - cool climate
- Who invented the sewing machine?
  - Elias Howe
  - Eli-Whitney
  - Samuel Crompton
  - Humphrey Davy
- Which family introduced steam engine in France?
  - de Wendel
  - de Hindal
  - de Arman
  - de Renault
- Who called Slater, the father of American Industrial Revolution?
  - F.D. Roosevelt
  - Andrew Jackson
  - Winston Churchill
  - Woodrow Wilson
- Which of the following is observed to commemorate the Hay Market Massacre?
  - Independence Day
  - Farmers Day
  - Labour Day
  - Martyrs Day
- Where was Zollverein Customs Union formed?
  - England
  - Germany
  - France
  - America
- Who produced the first batch of automobiles in France?
  - Louis Renault
  - Armand Peugeot
  - Thomas Alva Edison
  - McAdam
- What was the invention that removed seeds from cotton?
  - Rolling Mill
  - Cotton Gin
  - Spinning Mule
  - Spinning Jenny
- Which of the following was used as fuel in olden days to smelt iron?

a. Coke	b. Charcoal
c. Firewood	d. Paper

### II. Fill in the Blanks

- \_\_\_\_\_ called for voting rights to men in England.
- \_\_\_\_\_ changed the way roads were built around the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ discovered a faster and cheaper method of production of steel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ advocated scientific socialism.
- The first railroad line started in Germany was in the year \_\_\_\_\_.



### III. Find out the correct statement

1. i) British mine-owners were faced with the problem of water seeping into their mines  
ii) Employing human labour was cheap for this work  
iii) Newton invented a steam engine to pump water out of mines  
iv) Water had to be removed to get coal in mines  
a. (i) is correct  
b. (ii) and (iii) are correct  
c. (i) and (iv) are correct  
d. iii) is correct

2. i) Trade Unions were formed by labourers to get their rights  
ii) Germany's political setup was the most significant challenge for the industrial revolution  
iii) To protect capitalists Karl Marx advocated socialism  
iv) There were no natural resources in Germany  
a. (i) is correct  
b. (ii) and (iii) are correct  
c. (i) and (iv) are correct  
d. iii) is correct

3. **Assertion (A):** Workers had rights to get holidays.

**Reason (R):** There were laws to protect the workers.

- a) A is correct R is wrong
- b) Both A & R are wrong
- c) Both A and R are correct
- d) A is correct R is not correct explanation of A

4. **Assertion (A):** Slater was called the Father of the American Industrial Revolution.

**Reason (R):** His spinning textile mill was duplicated and his techniques became popular.

- a) A is correct and R is the correct explanation of A
- b) A is wrong and R is the correct explanation of A
- c) Both A and R are wrong
- d) Both A and R are correct

### IV. Match the following

1. Benz – U.S.A
2. Safety Lamp – Louis Renault
3. Quadricycle – Humphrey Davy
4. Great Railroad – Lancashire Strike
5. Coalfield – Germany

### V. Answer the following questions briefly

1. What was the condition of labourers' houses during Industrial Revolution?
2. Account for urbanisation in England
3. Attempt a note on Haymarket Massacre
4. What do you know of Louis Renault?
5. Highlight any two important results of Industrial Revolution.

### VI. Answer all the questions given under each caption

1. Labour Movement
  - a. When was the Reform Bill introduced?
  - b. To whom did it grant voting right.
  - c. Why it was known as Chartism?
  - d. What were the demands of the Chartists?
2. Transportation and Communication
  - a. Which was the first railway line opened in England?
  - b. How were the produced goods transported to markets?
  - c. How was the steamboat invented in the US called?
  - d. Who sailed from New York to Albany?



## VII. Answer in Detail

1. Enumerate the causes for the Second Industrialization in the USA.
2. What were the effects of Industrial Revolution of England on India?

### FUN WITH HISTORY

#### Student Activities

Organize a debate on the positive and negative aspects of Industrial Revolution. Prepare a list of fabrics and designs and the places of production in India.

#### Assignment with teacher's guidance

Collect the pictures of the inventions made at the time of Industrial Revolution. Write an assignment on the modern plastic road being made by used- plastics.



### REFERENCES

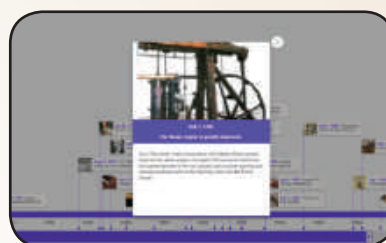
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## ICT CORNER

### INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Through this activity you will know about the world historic events through interactive timeline.



#### Procedure

- Step – 1 Open the Browser and type the given URL (or) Scan the QR Code.
- Step – 2 Click Search option and enter any Timeline (Ex. Industrial Revolution)
- Step-3 Click on full screen mode
- Step-4 Explore the Timeline events with pictorial descriptions.



Pictures are as indicators only

# UNIT 11

## Colonialism in Asia and Africa



### Learning Objectives

#### To acquaint oneself with

- The territories forming South East Asia
- Establishment of colonies by the Portuguese, the Spanish, the Dutch, the French, the British and the Americans
- Impact of colonisation on the Malaya Peninsula, Indonesia, Burma, Indo-China, Philippines
- Conquest of Africa, and the colonial regimes of the Dutch, the British, the Portuguese, the Germans, and the Belgians
- British colonisation of India and colonial control of Indian economy
- Economic impact of British rule in India



### Introduction

Colonialism is a process of domination, involving the subjugation of one people by another. Like colonialism, imperialism also involves political and economic control over a dependent territory. The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy differentiates the two as follows: The term colony comes from the Latin word *colonus*, meaning farmer. This root indicates that the practice of colonialism

usually involved the transfer of population to a new territory, where the arrivals lived as permanent settlers while maintaining political allegiance to their country of origin. Imperialism, on the other hand, (from the Latin term *imperium*, meaning to command) draws attention to the way one country exercises power over another, whether through settlement, sovereignty, or indirect mechanisms of control.



In World history, no continent possessed so many colonies and justified their access to the world by means of a civilising mission as did modern Europe. Practically the whole non-Western world was under one European power or the other for about four centuries until decolonisation happened after World War II.

In this lesson we discuss the colonisation of South East Asia, Africa and India by European powers.

## 11.1 Colonisation of Asia (South East Asia)

### South East Asia

The term “South East Asia” has only been used since the Second World War. It denotes the area that originally covered Malaya, Dutch East Indies, Burma, Siam, French Indo-China and the Philippines. With the exception of Siam (Thailand), which remained independent, the area was divided between the Dutch, the British and the French.

### Malaya Peninsula

When European traders crossed the Indian Ocean at the close of the 15th century, they came for the spices of south-east Asia. When the Portuguese conquered the great international emporium of Malacca for the king of Portugal, the empires of SriVijaya and Majapahit had split into many small states. Albuquerque, the Portuguese soldier who conquered Goa and Malacca, and his successors were interested in the spice trade. Towards this end they built a chain of fortified trading stations linked by naval power. Initially they did not interfere with the native rulers. After the arrival of the Dutch and the English there was a challenge to the presence of Portuguese and the rivalry of these three European powers dominated the seventeenth century.

The Dutch began their conquest of the Portuguese settlements by capturing Malacca in 1641. After establishing a base at Batavia (now Djakarta) in 1619, they interfered in

succession disputes among the neighbouring sultans. Gradually they extended their control over Java, expelling the British from Bantam in 1682. They had already driven them out of the Spice islands after the Massacre of Amboina (1623) and by the seizure of Macassar (1667), thereby forcing the English East India Company to turn to the China trade. The Spanish established themselves, beginning from their conquest of Manila, which expanded into a larger territory of Spanish East Indies.



Albuquerque

### Anglo-Dutch Rivalry

Penang Island had been brought to the attention of the East India Company by Francis Light. In 1786, the settlement of George Town was founded at the north eastern tip of Penang Island; this marked the beginning of British expansion into the Malay Peninsula. In 1819, Stamford Raffles established Singapore as a key trading post for Britain in their rivalry with the Dutch. However, their rivalry cooled in 1824 when an Anglo-Dutch treaty demarcated their respective interests in Southeast Asia. By 1826 Singapore and Malacca had been linked with Penang to form the Strait Settlements.

Between 1874 and 1895 there was a civil war between the remaining five Malay States. The British intervened and signed an agreement with each of the sultans. British Residents were appointed to the courts of sultans, who had to act in accordance

with the advice given by the Residents. In 1896 four of the states were formed into the Federated Malay States. In 1900 there were the Straits Settlements, the four Federated Malay States and Johore. The population was about a million, of whom, half were Malay and the remainder were Chinese. Most of the merchants, planters and workers in the ports and big plantations were Chinese. Economically Malaya was prosperous.

## Indonesia

The Dutch had occupied Java and Sumatra (Indonesia) as early as 1640. But they conquered the other outer islands of East India only in the second half of the nineteenth century, excepting the British possession of North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak. Initially the Dutch were not interested in politics but focused on exploiting Indonesia ruthlessly. But from the beginning of the twentieth century they adopted measures for the social and economic advance of the people they governed. Most Indonesians were fishermen and small peasants and worked on European sugar, tobacco, tea, coffee plantations. Heavy investments in these plantations and other concerns, and the discovery of oil in 1900 made Indonesia a valuable colony for the Dutch.

## Burma

The British conquered Burma after fighting three wars. Burma remained part of India from 1886 to 1937. Burma was administered by a Lieutenant Governor with the assistance of a nominated Legislative Council. Burma teak was shipped overseas. In addition, Burma with its fertility of soil became a big exporter of rice and most of south India was dependent on Burmese rice. During World War II when Burma fell to the Japanese, south India experienced acute scarcity of rice leading to a famine.

## Indo-China

The French conquered Indo-China after strong resistance from the people. Starting in 1858, they brought the Indo-Chinese Union

under their control by 1887. Indo-China consisted of Annam, Tongking, Cambodia and Cochin-China. Laos was added six years later. Of them only Cochin-China was directly under French control, i.e., as a French colony. The remaining four were protectorates. Under this system, the local rulers remained, but they governed under the instructions of French Residents. Hanoi was the capital of the French government. Rice, rubber and wheat were the main exports. Laos remained undeveloped.



French in Indo-China

## The Philippines



Spanish in Philippines

Spain ruled the Philippines for over 300 years, imposing its language, culture and religion. Consequently the population became predominantly Roman Catholic. Nationalism developed among the Filipinos during the latter part of the nineteenth century. There were two serious revolts in 1872 and 1896, which were crushed by the Spanish colonial government. In 1898, however, Spain was defeated by the United States in a war over Cuba, and as a result Philippines became an American colony.

## Siam (Thailand)

Thailand was spared the experience of foreign rule, though it too was greatly affected by the power politics of the Western powers. The administrative reforms of the late 19th century, continuing up till around 1910, imposed a Westernised form of government on the country's partially independent cities called 'Mueang'. Western powers, however, continued to interfere in its internal and external affairs.

### 11.2 Colonisation of Africa

Until the last quarter of nineteenth century, Africa south of the Sahara (Sub-Saharan Africa) was almost unknown to the outside world. The interior of Africa was unexplored. After 1875, European penetration and colonisation began on a large scale. The Berlin Colonial Conference of 1884-85 resolved to divide Africa into spheres of influence of the various European powers. European colonisation of Africa was thus accomplished smoothly, without any outbreak of war amongst major European powers. The invasion, occupation, colonisation and annexation of African territories by European powers between 1881 and 1914, the era of Imperialism, is called the Scramble for Africa or the Partition of Africa.

The Berlin Conference of 1884-85, also known as the Congo Conference or West Africa Conference, met to decide all issues connected with the Congo River basin in Central Africa. The conference proposed by Portugal to discuss its claim to control the Congo river basin was rejected. The general act of the Conference of Berlin declared the Congo River basin to be neutral and guaranteed freedom for trade and shipping for all states in the basin.

## South Africa

In South Africa the British possessed Natal, Cape Colony, while the Dutch (locally

known as the Boers) held the states of the Transvaal and Orange Free State. In 1886 the discovery of gold in the Transvaal led to a large number of British miners settling in and around Johannesburg. The Boers feared and hated the miners whom they called *Uitlanders* (foreigners). In 1890, Cecil Rhodes, the Prime Minister of Cape Colony, encouraged British expansion to the north of the Transvaal. This worsened the relations between the Boers and the British. Denied of their political rights the British miners revolted. This led to the Boer War which lasted three years (1899-1902). In the end the Boer army was defeated and Pretoria was occupied. The British annexed the two Boer states but promised self government in due course. Boer states were given full responsible government in 1907. After discussions over the years the four states finally decided to form a union and South Africa was created as a state in 1909.



Boer War

The Zulu tribe was known for its strong fighting spirit, represented by renowned warriors like Shaka Zulu who played a prominent role in building the largest Zulu nation in south-eastern Africa. British troops invaded Zulu territory and divided it into thirteen chiefdoms. The Zulus never regained their independence and had to fight against deeply entrenched racism in South Africa for about a century.



Shaka Zulu

## Rhodesia

The British South African Company founded in 1889 conducted an expedition with 600 men- each of them were promised a 3,000 acre farm. The African king was tricked into believing that all that the Europeans wanted was gold. But they had come with a definite plan of colonising the Bechuanaland. During the next ten years African opposition was crushed. White immigrants were provided with farm lands and railways, and a telegraph system developed. The colony came to be called Rhodesia, after Cecil Rhodes.

## West Africa

The coastal states of Gold Coast became a British colony in 1854. Nigeria was used for slave trading posts on the coast. In 1886 the Royal Niger Company was formed which was taken over by the British government in 1900.

**French West:** Senegal had been a French base in West Africa. Her later possessions of Guinea, Ivory Coast and Dahomey were linked up with the whole area of south of Sahara.

**Congo:** Leopold II, king of Belgium, showed interest in Congo and so the Berlin Conference agreed to the rule of Leopold in Congo Free State. This State was given a monopoly of the trade in ivory and rubber, the two most valuable products of the Congo. These products were collected with harshness. Africans were subjected to forced labour. Each village was given a quota, and if quotas were not fulfilled, they were flogged and mutilated. The public outcry over the economic exploitation of Africans persuaded the Belgian Government to intervene. Leopold was forced to relinquish his "sovereign right" and in 1908 sovereignty over the Congo passed from Leopold to Belgium.



Leopold II

## East Africa

**British:** In 1886 the possessions of the Sultan of Zanzibar were divided into British and German spheres of influence. For the first few years, the British area was administered by the British East India Company, but in 1895 the British government assumed authority and formed the East African Protectorate, which included Kenya, Uganda and Zanzibar. A large part of Uganda was made up of Buganda, a kingdom ruled by Kabaka.

**Germans:** The Germans established their rule in what became German East Africa. Like King Leopold in the Congo, the Africans here were economically exploited, leading to a number of rebellions. The most serious was the Maji-Maji rebellion (1905-1907).

## Portuguese Angola and Mozambique

The Portuguese had used these two colonies on the west and east coasts of southern Africa, along with Portuguese Guinea since 16<sup>th</sup> century.

## African Rule in Liberia and Ethiopia

Only two countries managed to evade European colonialism – Liberia and Ethiopia. Liberia was formed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century as a home for African Blacks repatriated from America.

Ethiopia, with its traditional polity, was ruled by the Emperor Menelik.



Emperor Menelik

## 11.3 Colonisation of India

Towards the close of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Portugal became the first European power to establish a trade link with India. Rounding the Cape of Good Hope Vasco da Gama arrived in Calicut in 1498. Soon other European powers joined Portugal in establishing their presence

in India. The European powers in India since 16<sup>th</sup> century are given below:

Portuguese	1505-1961
Dutch East India Company (Netherlands)	1605-1825
Danish East India Company (Denmark)	1620-1869
French East India Company	1668-1954
British East India Company	1612-1757
British Company Rule	1757-1857
British Imperial Rule	1858-1947

In the rivalry among four major European powers – Portuguese, Dutch, French and English – the English, after three Carnatic Wars, eliminated the French by the end of the eighteenth century. The British conquered all the regional powers, in particular the most potential challengers, the Mysore Sultans and the Marathas, by defeating them in three Anglo-Mysore and three Anglo-Maratha Wars. The conquest of the Gurkhas (1816), the Sindhis (1843) and the Sikhs (1849) enabled them to emerge as a territorial power in India.

## The Colonialisation of Indian Economy

We can divide the process of the colonialisation of India into three phases

- Phase I Mercantilist Capitalism
- Phase II Industrial Capitalism
- Phase III Financial Capitalism

### Colonialisation of Indian Economy: Mercantilist Phase (Outright Plunder; 18<sup>th</sup> Century).

At the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the East India Company was still a marginal force in India. It relied on concessions from Indian rulers for its trading posts along the coast. But soon it managed to establish strong ties

with Indian merchants who sold their textiles and other goods from the interior. Before it gained dominion in India the East India Company carried on a very profitable business selling Indian-made cotton textiles and silks and printed cloth. According to the Indian nationalist economist R.C. Dutt, "weaving was the national industry of the people and spinning was the pursuit of millions of women". Indian textiles went to England and other parts of Europe, to China and Japan and Burma and Arabia and Persia and parts of Africa. It was during this period that the textile lobby in Lancashire and Birmingham succeeded in making the Parliament enact a law prohibiting the import of Indian textiles. Those who were found in possession of or dealing in Indian cotton goods were fined 200 pounds.

In the 1750s and the early 1760s, Robert Clive gained control of the wealthiest part of the old Mughal Empire. The Company exacted concessions such as exemption of Company goods from transit duties, which even Indian merchants had to pay. After the Battle of Plassey (1757), the Company got 1.2 million pounds out of which Clive himself took 31,500 pounds besides a jagir which provided an annual income of 27,000 pounds. After the Battle of Buxar (1764), the Murshidabad treasury was looted. The Company acquired the Diwani right in 1765 and became the revenue farmer of the Mughal Emperor.



Robert Clive

## 11.4 Industrial Capitalist Phase: 1st half of the Nineteenth Century

By the beginning of nineteenth century the Company had emerged as a territorial power. During this period India was converted into a market for British textiles

and a great source of raw materials. The Company government's expansionist policies led to wars against regional rulers. The cost of these internal conquests was imposed on India.

### Financial Capitalist Phase: 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Nineteenth Century

During this phase managing agency firms, export-import firms, and exchange banks began to prosper. In its bid to provide an outlet to the investible surplus capital in England, the Company government decided to make a massive investment in railroads, the postal system, irrigation, modern banking and education. The capital exported was predominantly for railway construction. The railways helped to move British troops quickly across the country. It also enabled the conquest of the Indian market to the maximum extent. Slavery was abolished in India (1843) and the system of indentured labour was introduced.

## 11.5 Economic Impact of British Rule

### Agrarian Conditions

Governor General Cornwallis, himself a big landlord in England, wanted to create landlords in India on the English model. There were already revenue farmers under the Mughals. Cornwallis came to a settlement with them, treating them as landlords. The outcome was that for the first time in India there was a class of zamindars or landlords with a right to own, bequeath and inherit land. The cultivators, on the other hand, were reduced to the position of mere tenants. The British dealt with the landlords or zamindars directly, and gave them total freedom to do what they liked with their tenants. This settlement made with the zamindars of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa is called the Permanent Settlement (1793).

The Ryotwari System was a different revenue system introduced in south India.

Under the system, the peasant was the proprietor and paid tax on the land. The government dealt with him directly, without the intervention of a middleman or a tax-farmer. He was entitled to remain in possession of land acquired by him so long as he paid the land revenue. In case of default, apart from eviction and attachment of livestock, even household property or personal belongings could be attached. The Ryotwari System introduced the concept of private property in land. The individual holders were registered and permitted to sell, lease out, mortgage or transfer their right over the land.

### Land Revenue and the Pauperisation of Peasantry

The land tax which was the main source of revenue to the British was collected forcibly. Even in times of famines no remission was given to the peasants. They had to even mortgage or sell their property including their land to pay the landlord's rent and the land tax. As no credit facilities were provided by the state, they had to depend on moneylenders to borrow money. A system of money lending was followed by professional money-lenders who belonged to various communities such as *mahajans*, *sahukars*, and *bohras*. In the Tamil speaking areas there were Nattukottai Chettiars.

The colonial state pursued a policy of 'commercialization of agriculture'. Commercial crops like cotton, jute, groundnuts, oilseeds, sugarcane, tobacco, etc.,



Arthur Cotton



Pennycuik



depending on the market demands fetched better prices than food grains. So in his bid to clear his debt and to pay up the revenue dues to the state, instead of producing for home consumption, the peasant began to raise crops for the market. He had to depend on the price trend in international markets for selling his agricultural goods. Ignorant of market forces the peasants often came to distress, when the demand in the local market, which was now linked to the world market, crashed.

**Colonel Pennycuick** was an army Engineer and Civil Servant who also served as a member of the Madras Legislative Council. He decided to divert the west-flowing Periyar river draining into the Arabian Sea to the east so that it could irrigate lakhs of acres of dry land dependent on the Vaigai river. Though Pennycuick and other British engineers went ahead with the construction, braving nature's fury and the dangers of poisonous insects and wild animals, the construction was disrupted by relentless rain. Since he could not get adequate funds from the British government, Pennycuick went to England and sold his family property to mobilise money to fund the project, which was completed in 1895. The Mullai Periyar Dam continues to irrigate agricultural lands in Theni, Dindigul, Madurai, Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram districts.

## Irrigation

The British neglected irrigation in the first half of nineteenth century. Major irrigation canals were built only after millions of people died in a series of major famines that broke out periodically from the middle of 19th century. Even then the money earmarked for irrigation was meagre, but due to the initiative of some well meaning British officials and engineers like Arthur Cotton, and later Pennycuick guaranteed

protected irrigation became possible in certain areas. Even where such efforts were taken, the British collected an extra cess adding to the misery of the peasants who were already groaning under the oppressive land revenue system.

## Famines

The policy of free trade and the forcible collection of land revenue resulted in the outbreak of famines. The Odisha famine of 1866–67, was a severe and terrible event in the history of that region in which about a third of the population died. The famine of 1876–78, also known as the Great Famine of 1876–78 (called Thathu Varusha Panjam in Tamil), caused a large migration of agricultural labourers and artisans from southern India to British colonies, where they worked as indentured labourers on plantations. The death toll—about 10.3 million—was huge.



Odisha famine of 1866

In the Madras Presidency, the famine of 1876–78 was preceded by droughts. The situation was made worse because of the colonial government's policy of laissez faire in the trade of food-grains. For example, two of the worst famine-afflicted areas in the Madras Presidency, the districts of Ganjam and Vizagapatam, continued to export grains throughout the famine. These famines were typically followed by various infectious diseases such as bubonic plague (spread by dead rats) and influenza, which attacked and killed a population already weakened by starvation. The memory of this famine is still preserved in various folk songs and ballads.



The Indenture system was a penal contract system. The contract made punishable the refusal of an indentured labourer to work or his abstention from work, or his defiance of the orders of his master or absconding, by forfeiture of wages or imprisonment with or without hard labour.

Between 1842 and 1870 a total of 525,482 Indians emigrated to the British and French Colonies. Of these, 351,401 went to Mauritius, 76,691 went to Demerara, 42,519 went to Trinidad, 15,169 went to Jamaica, 6,448 went to Natal, 15,005 went to Reunion and 16,341 went to the other French colonies. This figure does not include the 30,000 who went to Mauritius earlier, labourers who went to Ceylon or Malaya and illegal recruitment to the French colonies. Thus by 1870 the indenture system, transporting Indian labour to the colonies, was an established system of providing virtual slaves for European colonial plantations.



Indian indentured Labourers in Trinidad

## Indentured Labour

The Indentured Labour System was a form of debt bondage, by which 3.5 million Indians were transported to various British colonies to provide labour for the plantations (mainly sugar). It started from 1843, the year of abolition of slavery in India and continued until 1920. This resulted in the development of a large Indian diaspora, which spread from the Indian Ocean (Reunion and Mauritius) to

Pacific Ocean (Fiji), as well as contributing to the growth of Indo-Caribbean and Indo-African population.

Famines in British India: The Bengal famine of 1770, took a heavy toll of about 10 million people or nearly one-third of the population in Bengal. This is how British rule commenced in India. Similarly the British rule ended with a terrible Bengal famine of 1943 that claimed the lives of nearly three millions. Amartya Sen, awarded the Nobel Prize in 1998, who as a young boy saw people dying on the streets of Kolkata wrote a path-breaking study of it.



Famine relief camp kitchen in Madras, 1876-1878

Picture by W.W. Hooper

## Recap

- The rivalry of the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English to possess colonies in Malayan Peninsula is dealt with
- The Dutch establishment of their base at Djakarta and gradually extending their control over Java and Sumatra (Indonesia) is discussed



- The British from its base in Penang taking in its possession the Federated Malay States, the Straits Settlements and Burma is dwelt on
- Spain initially colonising Philippines which was later taken by the US is pointed out
- Britain conquering first Natal, Cape Colony and later the coastal states of Gold Coast, the Dutch holding the states of Transvaal and Orange Free State are described
- The British settling in Johannesburg and coming into conflict with the Boers resulting in Boer Wars are highlighted
- Britain founding a colony in Bechuanaland and later crushing the resistance of the Africans taking over it and naming it Rhodesia is focused on
- French with its initial possession of Senegal annexing Guinea, Ivory Coast and Dahomey (today part of Benin in African Union); Congo being handed over to the Belgians which was ruled by Leopold, all pertaining to West Africa, are detailed
- British Kenya, Uganda, and Zanzibar, German East Africa, the Portuguese colonisation of Angola and Mozambique, along with Portuguese Guinea are dwelt on
- How the Indian economy was colonised in the aftermath of the establishment of British rule through three different successive phases is explained
- The onslaught of British colonialism on agrarian conditions of India resulting in impoverishment of peasantry and outbreak of famines forcing them to emigrate to colonies of British Empire as indentured labourers



## EXERCISE



### I. Choose the correct answer

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was brought to the attention of the East India Company by Francis Light.  
a. Spice islands  
b. Java island  
c. Penang island  
d. Malacca
2. In 1896 \_\_\_\_\_ states were formed into Federated Malay States  
a. Four  
b. Five  
c. Three  
d. Six
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was the only part of Indo-China which was directly under French Control  
a. Annam  
b. Tong king  
c. Cambodia  
d. Cochinchina
4. The Discovery of gold in the \_\_\_\_\_ led to a large number of British miners settled in and around Johannesburg.  
a. Transvaal  
b. Orange Free State  
c. Cape Colony  
d. Rhodesia
5. \_\_\_\_\_ became the first European power to establish trade with India  
a. Portuguese  
b. French  
c. Danes  
d. Dutch
6. Ethiopia defeated Italy at the battle of \_\_\_\_\_  
a. Adowa  
b. Dahomey  
c. Tonking  
d. Transvaal
7. Indentured labour system was a form of \_\_\_\_\_  
a. contract labour system  
b. slavery  
c. debt bondage  
d. serfdom



## II. Fill in the blanks

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Conference resolved to divide Africa into spheres of influence of the various European Powers.
2. The settlement made with the zamindars of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa is \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was the main source of revenue for the British.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ were money lenders in the Tamil speaking areas.

## III. Find out the correct statement

1. i) Until the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Africa south of Sahara was unknown to the world.  
ii) The coastal states of Gold Coast became a British colony in 1864.  
iii) Spain ruled the Philippines for over 500 years.  
iv) The famine of 1876–78 occurred in Odhisha.  
a. i) is Correct  
b. ii) is Correct  
c. ii) & iii) are correct  
d. iv) is correct
2. i) The French had occupied Java and Sumatra in 1640.  
ii) The Dutch began their conquest of the English Settlements by capturing Malacca .  
iii) Berlin Conference met to decide all issues connected with the Congo River basin.  
iv) The possessions of Sultan of Zanzibar were divided into French and German spheres of influence.  
a. i) is correct      b. ii) & i) are correct  
c. iii) is correct      d. iv) is correct

3. **Assertion (A):** In the Madras Presidency, the famine of 1876-78 was preceded by droughts.

**Reason (R) :** Because of the colonial government's policy of Laissez Faire in the trade of food- grains.

- a. A is correct, R is wrong
- b. Both A & R are wrong
- c. A is correct , R is not the correct explanation of A
- d. A is correct, R is the correct explanation of A

4. **Assertion (A):** Berlin Conference agreed to the rule of Leopold II in Congo Free State.

**Reason (R):** Leopold II, King of Belgium, showed interest in Congo.

- a. Both A and R are correct and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b. Both A and R are correct and R is not the correct explanation of A
- c. A is correct and R is wrong.
- d. A is wrong but R is correct

## IV. Match the following

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Leopold       | - Ethiopia    |
| 2. Menelik       | - Vietnam     |
| 3. Cecil Rhodes  | - Belgium     |
| 4. Bengal famine | - Cape colony |
| 5. Bao Dai       | - 1770        |

## V. Answer the following briefly

1. Distinguish between Colonialism and Imperialism.
2. Write a note on Zulu tribe.
3. State the three phases in the Colonialisation of Indian economy.
4. Colonel Pennycuik.
5. Explain Home Charges.



## VI. Answer all questions given under each heading

1. Colonialism in India
  - a. When did the East India Company acquire the Diwani Right?
  - b. When were the Gurkhas conquered by the British?
  - c. When was slavery abolished in British India?
  - d. When did Burma become a part of India?
2. South Africa
  - a. Name the states possessed by the British in South Africa
  - b. What were the territories held by the Dutch?
  - c. Who was the Prime Minister of Cape colony?
  - d. How long did Boer Wars last?

## VII. Answer in detail

1. Discuss the economic impact of British Rule in India.
2. Explain the process of colonisation in Africa.



## REFERENCES

1. Irfan Habib, *A People's History of India Series - Indian Economy under Early British Rule*, 1757-1857, Tulika.
2. Irfan Habib, *Essays In Indian History*, Manohar
3. Irfan Habib, *Indian Economy*, 1858-1914, Tulika
4. D.G.E. Hall, *A History of Southeast Asia*, Macmillan
5. R.D. Cornwell, *World History in the Twentieth Century*, Longman, 1980.



## FUN WITH HISTORY

### Student Activities

Prepare an album with pictures and images of famines that affected different parts of India during the British colonial rule. Attempt an account of the cultural relations between India and Southeast Asia.

### Assignment with teacher's guidance

Arrange a debate in the class room on the merits and demerits of the British rule in India. Explore the impact of colonialism in British Burma.



A-Z

## GLOSSARY

**Assemblage**

A collection of artefacts and other objects unearthed from archaeological sites.

**Aboriginal**

One living on a land from earliest times.

**Ascetic**

Self discipline avoiding any physical pleasure

**Austere**

Simple and plain

**Abdicate**

Give up

**Allegiance**

Loyalty

**Abortive**

Unsuccessful

**Bureaucracy**

Government by unelected officials

**Cardinal**

Fundamental

**Cartel**

A monopolistic association of manufacturers

**Chieftdom**

A hierarchical political formation and it is larger than the tribe level formation.

**Clad**

Clothed (dressed)

**Commemorate**

Celebrate the memory of a person or an event

**Confederacy**

An alliance, especially of states

**Diaspora**

Persons dispersed from their homeland

**Dissension**

Disagreement

**Dock**

A structure extending along shore or out from the shore into a body of water, to which boats are moored

**Dogmatic**

Clinging to principles as incontrovertibly true / opinionated

**Embossed**

Carved

**Emboldened**

Giving the courage or confidence to do something

**Emporium**

A large commercial complex selling a wide variety of goods

**Entrepreneurial class**

A group characterised by the taking of financial risks in the hope of profit

**Encyclopaedia**

A book containing a set of articles on many subjects and arranged alphabetically

**Epoch**

A period of time in history

**Estampage**

The process of making copies of inscriptions using paper and ink.

**Flogging**

Beat (someone) with whip or stick as punishment or torture

**Frustrated**

Expressing feelings of despair

**Guillotine**

A machine with a heavy blade used for beheading people

**Heresy**

Opinion which goes against the accepted belief

**Incorporated**

Included

**Impoverished**

Poverty stricken

**Intriguing**

Puzzling

**Manhunt**

An organized search for a person



<b>Migrants</b>	Persons who moved from one place to another in search of livelihood or for settlement
<b>Molasses</b>	Thick dark brown syrup obtained from raw sugar during the refining process
<b>Oligarchy</b>	A small group of people having control of a state
<b>Pauperized</b>	Keeping alive, continuing indefinitely
<b>Penetration</b>	Entry with force
<b>Penultimate</b>	Last but one
<b>Perpetuating</b>	Keeping alive, continuing indefinitely
<b>Piety</b>	Religious devotion
<b>Proliferation</b>	Increase in great numbers or large amounts
<b>Proponents</b>	Persons advocating a theory or a proposal
<b>Rationale</b>	Reasons or a logical basis for a course of action
<b>Reconcile</b>	To agree to
<b>Relinquish voluntarily</b>	To give up a post or office
<b>Remittance</b>	A sum of money sent, especially by mail in payment for goods or services or as a gift
<b>Repealed</b>	Cancelled
<b>Resentment</b>	Fury / Anger
<b>Slaughter</b>	Killing animals for food
<b>Smelting</b>	Heating and melting ore to extract metal
<b>Subjugation</b>	Bring a person or a country under control
<b>Subsistence</b>	Means minimum requirements for maintaining human existence.
<b>Suzerainty</b>	The control of one country over another country
<b>Tribe</b>	A community of people who live in a region connected by kinship ties. They are linked by social, economic, religious or blood relationships. They share a common culture and dialect, under the control of a chief.
<b>Tricked</b>	Cheated
<b>Tutelage</b>	Guardianship
<b>Vehement</b>	Forceful