

Chapter 16 --- Lesson 2 --- Pages 498 to 503

1. South Asia has the oldest known civilizations
 - a. Indus Valley civilization
 - i. Dates back to 3500 BC
 - b. Advanced – city streets laid out in a grid like pattern, houses made of brick with wells, houses had bathrooms and drains
 - i. Traded over long distances
 - c. Indus Valley culture lasted about 1000 years
 - i. What brought it to an end?
 1. Earthquake, disease, enemy invasions
 - d. Aryans --- 1500 BC
 - i. 2 legacies
 1. Aryans believe that society could be successful only if people followed strict roles and tasks
 - a. Caste System
 - i. Brahmins or priests --- Warriors --- Merchants --- Laborers & Peasants
 - ii. Caused much inequality
 1. People could not move up in society, regardless of their talents
 - iii. Independence in 1947 --- outlawed the caste system
 2. Literary
 - a. Vedas
 - b. Hindi --- most important languages in modern India
 - c. History handed down orally for many centuries.
 - e. Religious Traditions
 - i. Birthplace of major religions
 1. Hinduism
 - a. Described as a way of life
 - b. Has no founder, and no set of core beliefs
 - c. Belief in reincarnation
 - i. Rebirth of a soul in another body
 - ii. Karma
 1. The belief that actions in this life can affect your next life
 - iii. Enlightened soul can be released from the reincarnation cycle of birth, death, and rebirth
 1. Soul enters nirvana, a state of eternal bliss
 2. Response to Hinduism
 - a. Jainism
 - i. This religion was based on the Hindu principle of ahimsa, or noninjury
 - ii. Stopped farming so they did not have to kill or injure any living creature.

b. Buddhism

i. Founded by Siddhartha Gautama

1. At 29 he gave up his wealthy lifestyle and travelled in poverty, searching for spiritual truth.
2. Reached his goal at age of 35 and became known as “the Buddha” or “the enlightened one”

ii. Created the Four Noble Truths

1. Life is full of suffering
2. Suffering can be stopped by conquering desire
3. The cause of suffering is selfish desire
4. Desire can be conquered by following the Eightfold Path: right view, right intention, right speech, right action, right way of living, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration.

iii. Buddhists and Jains largely rejected the caste system

iv. Hinduism remains in India

v. Buddhism has spread to other Asian countries

vi. Jainism remains a small but vibrant religion in India

f. Three Indian Empires

i. Aryan Civilization faded by 500 BC

ii. Mauryas

1. Conquered much of South Asia
2. Ashoka – highly successful warrior
 - a. Converted to Buddhism 260 BC and adopted a life of nonviolence
 - b. Trade and culture thrived

iii. Guptas

1. Science, medicine, mathematics, and arts flourished
2. Developed the decimal system in mathematics that we still use today

iv. Mughal 1500- 1600

1. Akbar the Great
 - a. Devoted Muslim
 - b. Encouraged freedom of religion
 - c. Culture, science, and arts flourished
2. Taj Mahal
 - a. Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife

g. The British in South Asia

i. 1600 British traders established settlements in India

ii. British wanted textiles, timber, and tea

iii. 1857 British government took direct control of most of South Asia

1. Controlled present day countries of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh

2. British built railways, schools, and ports
 3. Indians resented a foreign presence and in 1800 an independence movement began.
- h. Achieving Independence
- i. British were reluctant to give up the Raj --- imperialist rule of India
 - ii. The Indian National Congress endorsed a boycott
 1. Refusing to buy imported British goods
 - iii. Two leaders
 1. Mohandas K Gandhi called "Mahatma" or "great soul"
 - a. Practice law in South Africa where the racist policies shocked and angered him
 - b. Deeply opposed to violence
 - c. Civil Disobedience --- nonviolent resistance
 2. Jawaharlal Nehru
 3. Independence came in August 1947
 - a. Conflicts between Hindus and Muslims, however, divided the subcontinent
- i. India and Pakistan
- i. Trouble between Hindus and Muslims
 - ii. In the settlement with the British two countries were formed
 1. India – Mainly Hindu
 2. Pakistan --- mainly Muslim
 - a. East Pakistan
 - i. In 1970 they will get independence and become Bangladesh
 - iii. Tensions between India and Pakistan did not die down
 1. Fought several wars
 - a. Dispute over the region of Kashmir
 - b. 1990's countries developed nuclear weapons
 - c. Nuclear Proliferation
 - i. The spread of enormously powerful atomic weapons