



SOUTH ASIA HISTORY

Chapter 16 Lesson 2
Page 498-503

EARLY SOUTH ASIA

- Indus Valley Civilization
 - Oldest known Civilization
 - 3500 BC
 - Indus River
 - Written Records (not fully deciphered, but showed that they were advanced)
 - City streets laid out in a grid-like pattern
 - Houses made of brick, had bathrooms
 - Craftsmanship flourished – toys and other artifacts
 - Traded over long distances.

EARLY SOUTH ASIA

- Indus Valley Civilization
- Aryans Civilization
- Lasted for about 1000 years.
- Also lasted about 1000 years.
- 2 important legacies
 - Caste System –Priests, Warriors, Merchants, Laborers/Peasants
 - Caused much inequality
 - Born into caste, people could not move up in society, regardless of their talents
 - Outlawed in 1947
 - Literary
 - Composed the Vedas
 - Language of Hindi

EARLY SOUTH ASIA

- Vedas
 - Religious hymns handed down orally for many centuries before they were written down.
 - Laid the foundation for Hinduism
- Birth Place of Religions
 - Hinduism
 - Is described as a way of life
 - No founder, no holy book, no core beliefs
 - Reincarnation – rebirth of a soul in another body
 - Karma – belief that actions in this life can affect your next life
 - Enlightenment – the release from the reincarnation cycle and the soul enters nirvana, a state of eternal bliss.

EARLY SOUTH ASIA

- Birth Place of Religions
 - Jainism
 - Religion based on the Hindu principle of ahimsa, or noninjury
 - Buddhism
 - Siddhartha Gautama – Founder
 - Gave up wealthy lifestyle and traveled in poverty searching for spiritual truth.
 - He became Buddha or the enlightened one
 - Passed on the Four Noble
 - Life is full of suffering
 - The cause of suffering is selfish desire
 - Suffering can be stopped by conquering desire
 - 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.
 - Buddhists and Jains largely rejected the caste system

EARLY SOUTH ASIA

- 3 Indian Empires
 - Mauryas
 - Converted to Buddhism around 260 BC and adopted a life of nonviolence
 - Trade and culture thrived
 - Guptas
 - Science, medicine, and mathematics flourished
 - Developed the decimal system in mathematics
 - Mughals
 - Were Muslim rather than Hindu
 - Had freedom of religion
 - Taj Mahal was constructed by Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife.

MODERN SOUTH ASIA

- British in South Asia
- 1600's British traders established settlements in India
- British were interested in textiles, timber, and tea.
- British took control over South Asia in 1857
- Independence movement was called the Indian National Congress
 - They supported a boycott
 - Refusing to buy or use certain goods (British goods)

MODERN SOUTH ASIA

- Mohandas K Gandhi
 - Called Mahatma or great soul
 - He studied law
 - Practiced law in South Africa where racist policies shocked and angered him. This made him determined to fight for independence
 - Deeply opposed to violence
 - Civil disobedience
 - Nonviolent resistance
 - India became independent in August 1947

MODERN SOUTH ASIA

- India and Pakistan
- Conflicts between Hindus and Muslims
- With independence from British they divided the subcontinent into 2 main countries.
 - India (mainly Hindu) and Pakistan (Mainly Muslim)
 - Bangladesh was part of Pakistan but broke away in 1970's to form Bangladesh.
- India & Pakistan have fought several wars of Kashmir
- Both countries are nuclear powers

QUESTIONS

- How has the caste system influenced life in South Asia
- How are the religions of Jainism and Buddhism alike and different?
- It dictated the occupations and tasks an individual could undertake according to his or her birth and position in society.
- Both arose in response to Hinduism and its emphasis on the caste system.
Jainism –non-injury Buddhism – 4 noble Truths and the teachings of its founder Buddha.