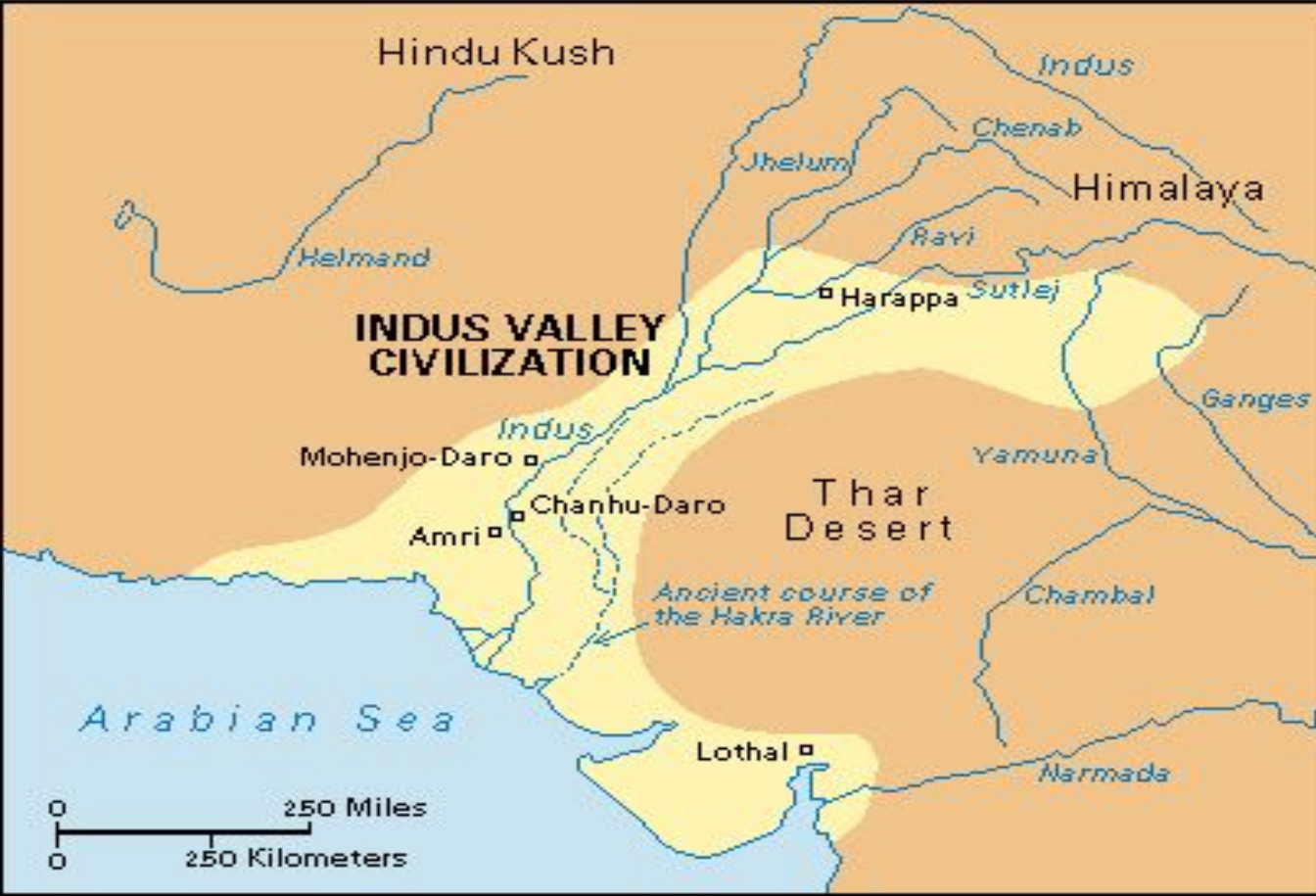


# INDUS VALLEY



2500-1900 B.C.E.

Avery Vogt and Sergio Naimi

# GEOGRAPHIC IMPACT ON SOCIETY

- This civilization was located in the Indus river valley in India which is now in between modern India and Pakistan
- The river valley provided fertile soil for farming so the people were floodplain farmers who grew barley and wheat
- This civilization wasn't very isolated and had little protection, the only body of water that they had access to was the Indus
- Back when the civilization was at its peak they did have access to other river such as the Saraswati river but it has since dried up



# POLITICAL SYSTEM AND IMPACT ON SOCIETY

- Had one leader to be designated as the person with power and choices of civilization and the person was a priest
- Did not believe in slavery so for work projects every person worked together and all worked on the project the same amount
- Theocracy was the type of government that ran the Indus Valley which tied religion and the political system together
- There was a universal law that you are a part of nature and that everything is a part of you



# TRADE AND COMMERCE

- The people of the Indus Valley civilization, called the Harappans, mostly traded with Mesopotamia
- They traded wheat, barley, and domesticated animals such as cattle, sheep, goats and chicken
- Archeologists believe that the Harappans were one of the first people to ever domesticate chickens
- The Harappans may have traded fish caught from the Indus river as well
- There were sites that were inhabited by merchants and craftsmen which contained copper tools and lots of jewelry



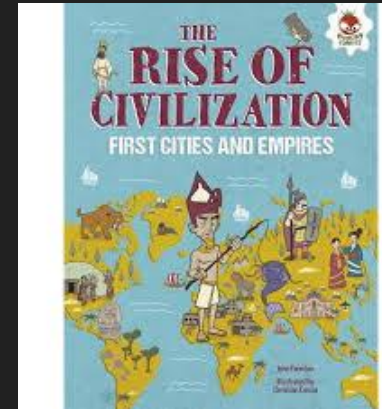
# BELIEFS AND RELIGIOUS IMPACT ON CULTURE

- The Harappans were Polytheistic as they worshipped many Gods, Goddesses and other important religious persons in their religion
- There were fire altars in every home to do rituals
- With every fire the Harappans would sacrifice animals in the fire
- The fire rituals were believed to be a way of complex purification and animal sacrifice
- Nataraja- Lord of the dance
- Lingodbhava- Lord of the Phallus
- God Shiva- God of the animals



# THE RISE OF THE CIVILIZATION

- When people first found this river valley they knew that it would have fertile soil for farming so they decided to stay and to start building a small village there
- This small farming village grew in size and larger buildings were built
- This eventually became a large civilization that was built in a circular shape and on a hill to keep out flood waters.
- This civilization became one of the most advanced ones in India with a written pictographic language and multiple different jobs



# ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Circular brick platforms were thought to be used for husking grain but in reality the circular platform was used to store the grain
- Collections of beads were used to make major things for crafted items were for trading and as status symbols
- Harappans were very excellent in making faience ornaments which were ceramic beads in a variety of colors and were finely glazed.
- Harappan pottery was decorated in black flora, fauna and human designs over red slip
- Like today pottery was made on a wheel and then burned in a kiln



# WRITTEN HISTORY

- We know that the harappans were a literate people because we have found pictographic inscriptions on stamps and pottery
- We have not figured out how to decipher this language yet but we have found it in neighboring civilizations such as mesopotamia which means that these two places traded
- 





# MAJOR TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

- Artisans found ways to become more advanced in making pottery as they learned how to improve glazing, firing and shaping
- Were the first people to make an organized and understandable written language by the people, unfortunately today the language can not be deciphered
- Were one of the first places to have houses with latrines, bathing houses, and had a drainage system that dumped all the sludge in fields



# THE GOLDEN AGE

- In this civilization's golden age it was one of the largest in India ; built in three sections on a hill
- It had a booming economy in trade and its artists made works of art that influenced other civilizations, even those who succeeded them
- This civilization had a great hall in the top sections along with wealthy merchants housing, regular peoples houses such as artists, and the bottom section was filled with small houses for the poor
- Harappans crafts achieved a very high level of sophistication, they made ornaments, glazed ceramic beads, and bronze objects such as knives, pins, swords, and arrow heads



# FAMOUS CITIZENS AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

- A famous citizen of the Indus River Valley civilization was Thaa Venthana, on many seals he was the emperor/priest who ruled the Indus Valley civilization



# SLAVERY

- Even though the civilization had different classes there is no evidence of slavery
- This civilization was not built by forced labor and everyone who built it worked an even amount
- This large civilization was built for protection, not because a powerful leader wanted it



# FALL OF CIVILIZATION

- Items crafted by the harappans lost value and their economy which was based on traded these items failed
- Other problems such as overpopulation and over farming which made the soil become unusable also contributed to the fall of the civilization
- All of these problems lead to a crisis that disrupted trade and dwindled the power of the wealthy merchants who could not make any more money



# WORLD WIDE CONTRIBUTIONS

- The influence of harappan culture was extensive and continued to make an impact on other civilizations even after the demise of the Indus valley civilization, especially in arts and crafts
- Harappan motifs such as bulls have been found on mesopotamian and persian gulf seals and decorations on pottery from the oman peninsula looks similar to harappan pottery
- Other civilizations, even today, use ideas created by the harappans to plan out and build urban areas in cities.



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