



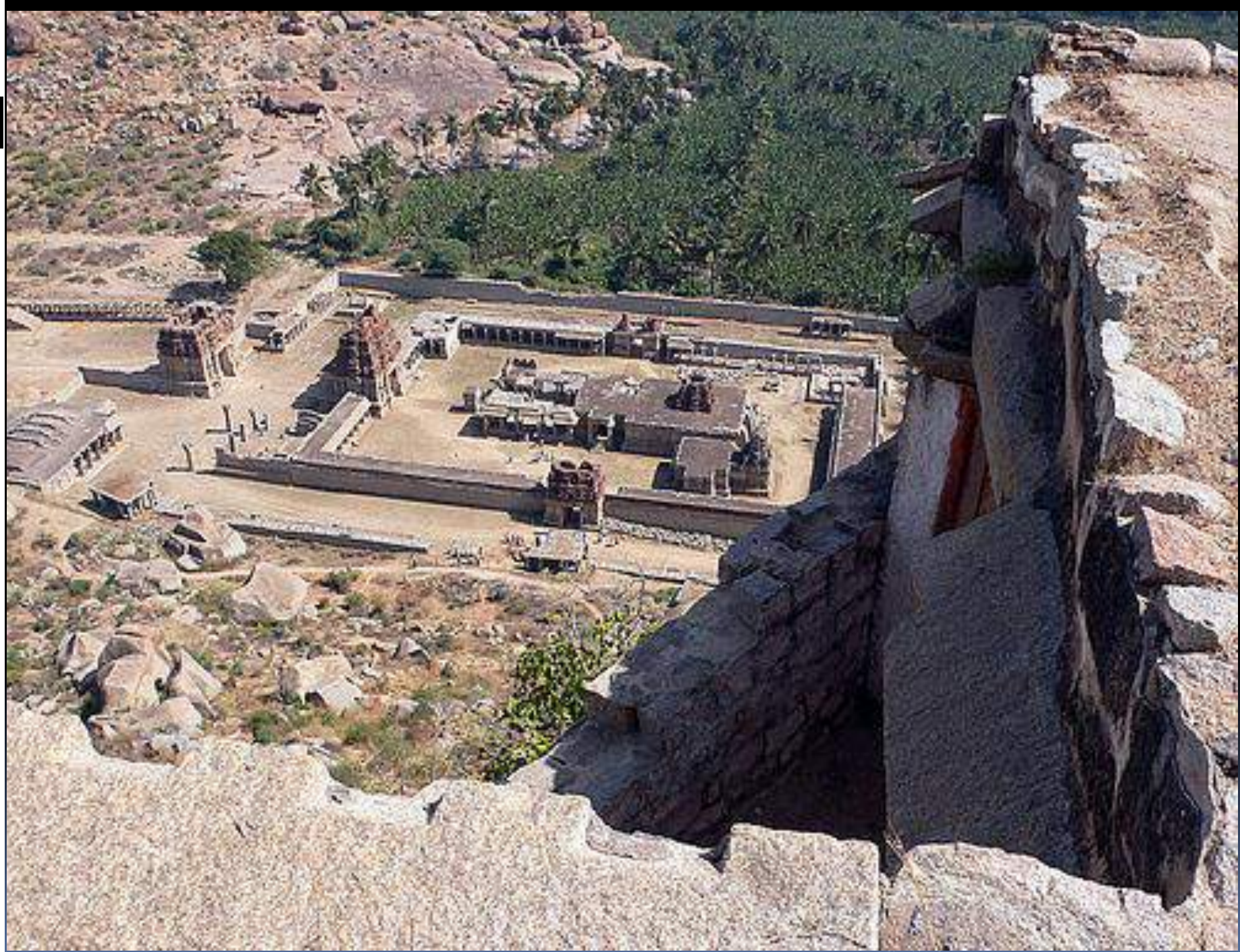
ARYAN CIVILIZATION & HISTORY OF INDIA

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Ehule-Gesellschaft





The Vedas

- **our primary source**
 - **early Aryan tradition**
 - **later Hindu religion**
- **four “vedas”**
 - **the Rig Veda is the oldest**



The Vedas

- **oral poetry**
- **come to have a sacred character**
- **provide some historical information**

ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः

तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं

भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि ।

धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात् ॥

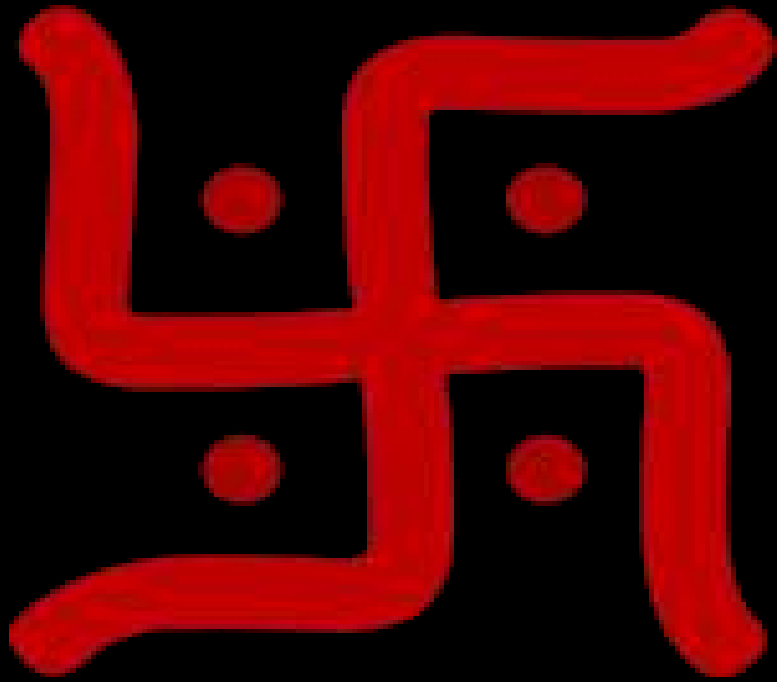
ॐ त्रियम्बकं यजामहे

सुगन्धिं पुष्टिवर्धनं ।

उर्वारुकमिव बन्धनात्

मृत्योर्मुक्षीय माहमृतात् ॥







The Aryans

- restless, warlike people
- tall, blue-eyed, fair-skinned
- describe the indigenous population as
 - short, “black”, nose less, and slaves


Shakti, the Powerful Devi, Killer of Mahishaasura







The Aryans

- **Villages and kingdoms constantly fighting**
 - **war chiefs and kings**
 - **aristocrats and freemen**
- 

The Aryans

- **fond of fighting, drinking, chariot racing, gambling chasing women and bragging about their spears**
 - **any modern comparisons ???**
 - + fond of taking soma**
 - **a psychedelic drug**
 - **probably psychotropic mushrooms**

Vedic Civilization

- Around 1,500 BC, speakers of Indo-European languages gradually infiltrated the Indian subcontinent. These people referred to themselves as Arya(Aryan). As historians do not have much archaeological evidence for this era, they rely on the sacred book of hymns composed by these people. These sacred books are known as Vedas: hence this lecture will refer to the Vedic Civilization.

Vedic Civilization: Language and Religion



- 1. The Linguistic Identity of Aryan People.
- 2. The Evolution of Sanskrit Language.
- 3. The Vedas and Upanishad.
- 4. Ancient Religious System.

Vedic Civilization: Technology and Economy



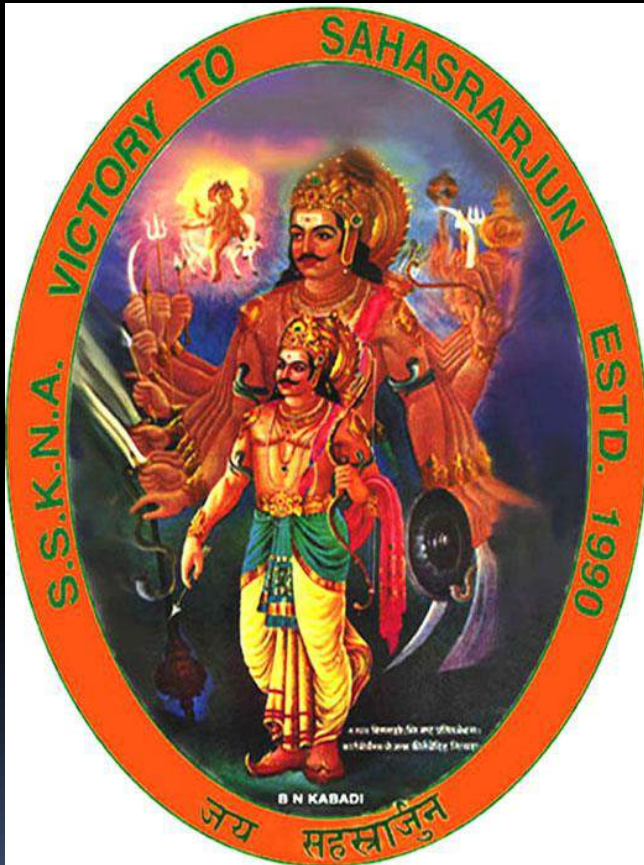
- 1. Use of Iron Tools.
- 2. Clearing of Forests in Indo- Gangetic Plain.
- 3. Beginning of Sedentary agrarian Civilization.
- 4. Rise of Urban Centers.

Vedic Society: Social Stratification.



- 1. Geographic Expansion of Aryan Civilization from Indus Valley to Gangetic Plain.
- 2. Primary Ethnic Units: Tribes or Jana.
- 3. Cattle Wealth and the formation of Ruling Lineages.

Vedic Civilization: Social Stratification



- 1. Evolution of Caste Stratification:-
- A) Brahman-white
- B)Kshatriya-yellow
- C)Vaishya-red
- D) Praja-Shudras and Dasas-black

Vedic Civilization: Formation of State



- 1. Ethnic Unit –Jana/ Clans/ Tribe.
- 2. Regional Territory of Clan-Janapada.
- 3. Chief of ruling kshatriya Lineage-Raja/King.
- 4. New Name for Ruling Lineage Rastra (State).

Aryans and Hindus

- Aryans give rise to Hindu society
- but different characteristics
 - cows: they ate them
 - classes, but no castes
 - priests subordinate to the nobility
- *the Mahabharata*

The Iron Age: new sources

- **the Vedas:** passed on orally
- **the Brahmanas:** interpretations on the Vedas
- **the Upanishads:** interpretations and symbolic studies
 - forerunners of later dissenting literature

Strain of change

- Iron Age change causes strain on the class system
- blurring of lines between Aryans and Daas
 - answered with the **caste system**

Caste System, 1000 BC

- skin color
- ritual purity
- “Us--Them” feelings
- divine order of four castes



Caste System (“Varnas”)

- **Brahmins:** the priests
- **Kshatriyas:** the warriors
- **Vaisyas:** merchants and peasants
- **Sudras:** non-Aryans



Caste system, con't

- produced by Brahmins
- literature emphasized the divine order
- hierarchical relationship
- inheritance and marriage

Caste system in practice

- warrior class did not always accept it
- nor the other classes
- the process of evolution is still going on
- the most powerful organizer of Indian society
 - thousand of castes today



Castes

- define a person's social universe
- define a person's standard of conduct
- define a person's expectations
- define a person's future
- define how a person deals with others

ANCIENT MANDIR



Nadeem
Khawar



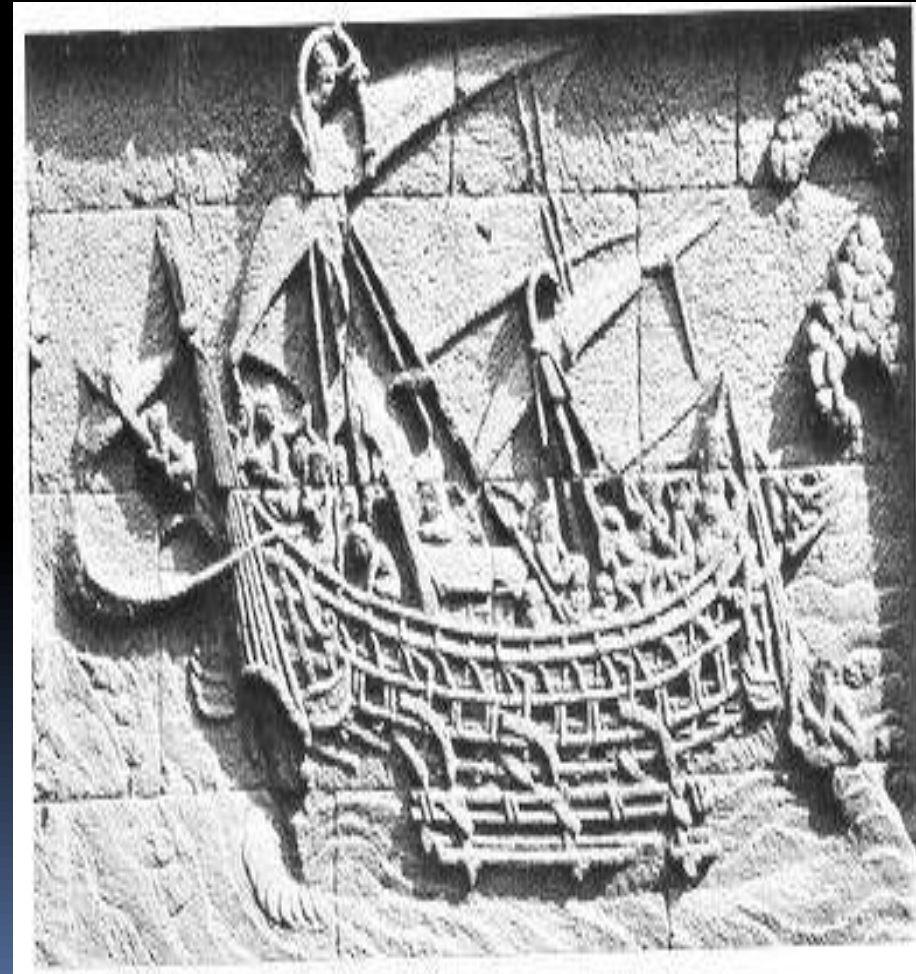
Ram Darbar coin 597 AD

Coin (597 AD) depicting Ram and Lakshman



Shipbuilding and Navigation

- The art of Navigation was born in the river Sindh 6000 years ago
- There is overwhelming evidence that Indian civilization traded with the Egyptians using ships.
- Rig Veda makes several references to ships used to cross the "Samudra."
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THANKS TO ALL

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