

# India's Empires and Religions: Buddhism and Hinduism



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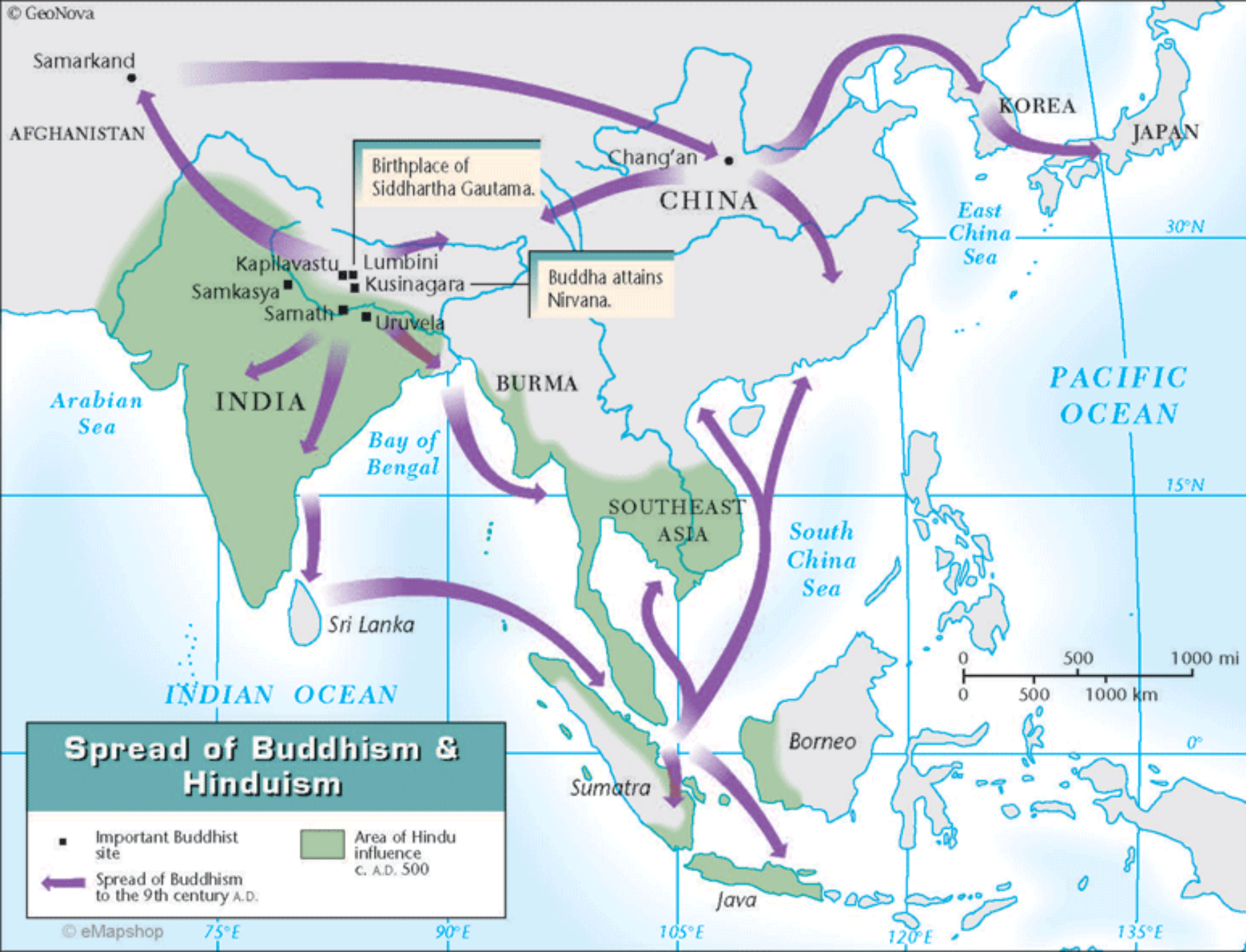
# Hinduism

Basic facts:

- 1) Has no single founder
- 2) 3<sup>rd</sup> largest religion in the world
  - a) 1 Billion world-wide
  - b) Most live in India today



Countries, capitals, and major religions of South Asia. India dominates the subcontinent by virtue of its large population and area.



### Spread of Buddhism & Hinduism

■ Important Buddhist site	■ Area of Hindu influence c. A.D. 500
← Spread of Buddhism to the 9th century A.D.	

# Hinduism

- 3000 years old
- Brought to Indus River Valley Region by Aryans
- Vedas – Holy Text
  - Written in Sanskrit
    - All are part of an all-powerful spiritual force called *Brahman*
- Not exactly Polytheistic or monotheistic....



# Hinduism

- Three most important Hindu Gods (forms of Brahman)
  - Brahma (creator), Vishnu (protector), Shiva (destroyer)



- Belief in reincarnation: Rebirth of the soul, or when the soul enters the body of another being
  - Respect for ALL living things
- Ultimate goal Moksha
  - Free the soul from the cycle of reincarnation & the soul can unite with Brahman.

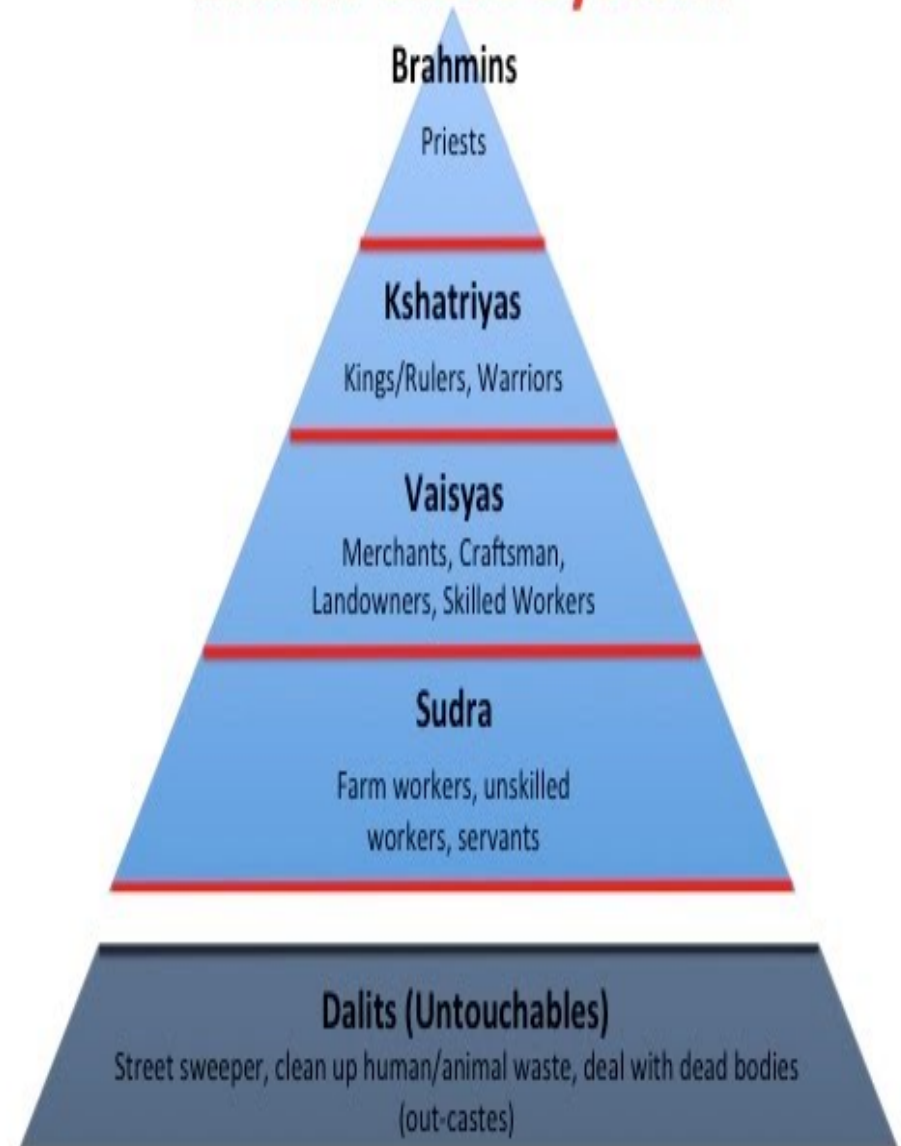
# Sacred Cow of India



# Hinduism

- ❖ Karma: Every action produces a Justified effect based on its moral worthiness.
- ❖ Dharma: ethical duty based on the divine order of reality. The word is the closest equivalent to “religion.”

## Indian Caste System





# Early Spread of Buddhism



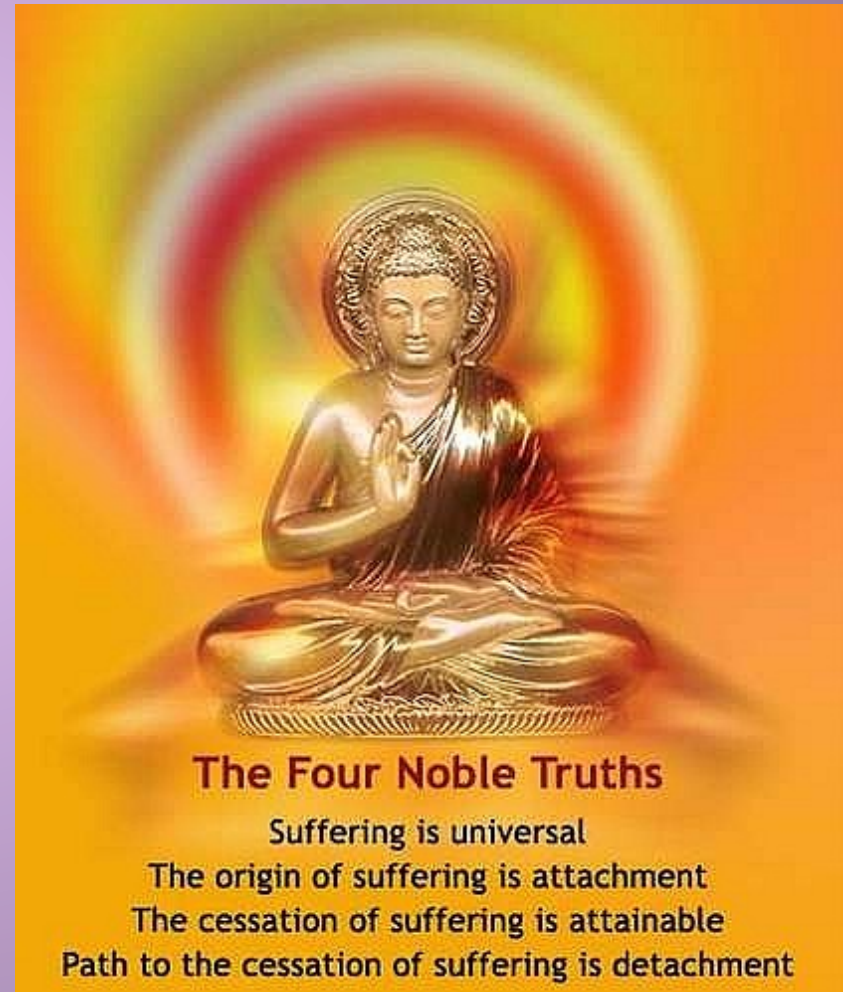
# Rise of Buddhism

- Emerged after Hinduism
- Began in Nepal
- Siddhartha Gautama – Founder of Buddhism
  - Became known as the “Enlightened One”
  - Born into royal life, left to pursue search for religious truth and end to life’s suffering
- People seek enlightenment through meditation, instead of priests, formal rituals and gods



# Four Noble Truths

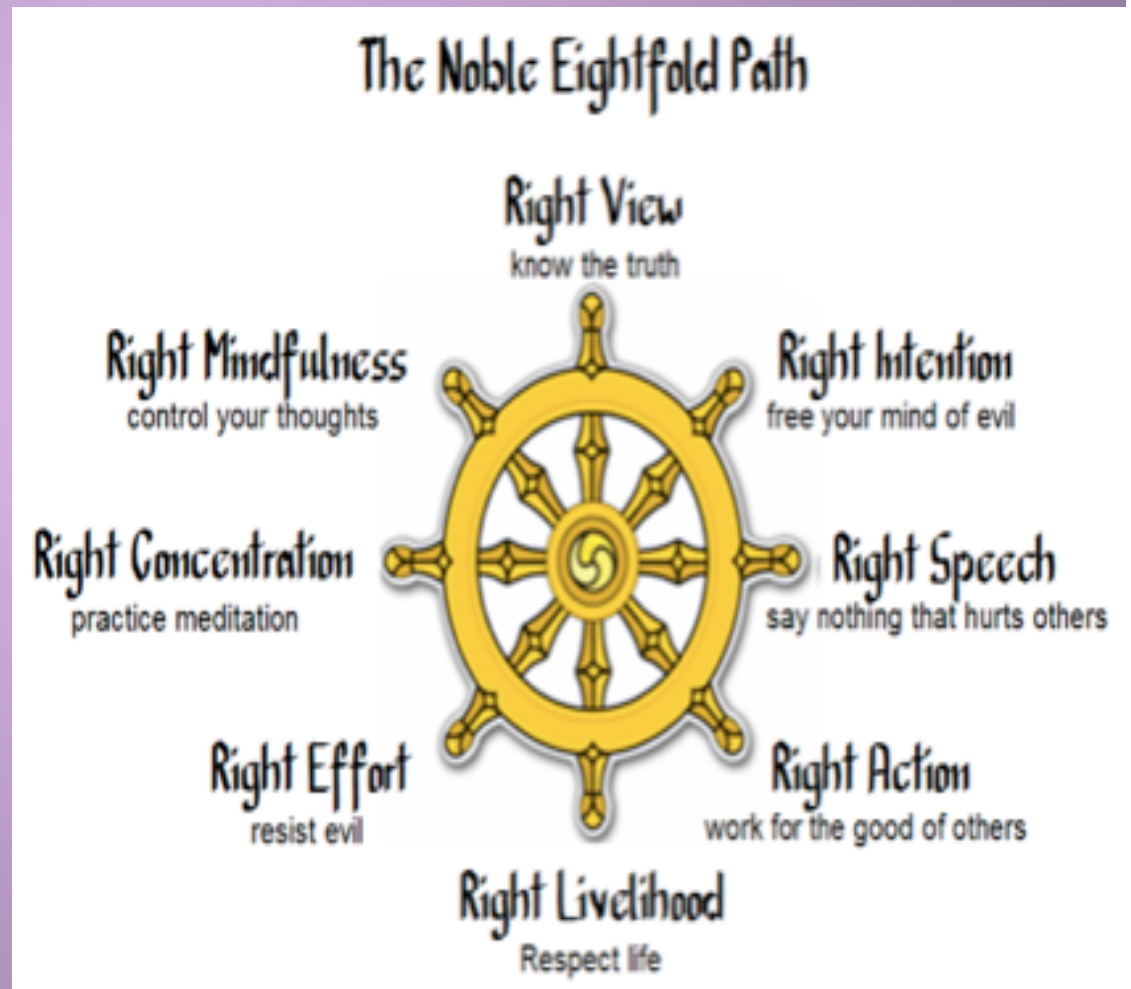
- 1) All life is full of suffering and sorrow
- 2) Suffering is caused by a desire to satisfy ourselves (being selfish)
- 3) The way to end suffering is to end all desires
- 4) End desire by following the eightfold path



# Eight Fold Path

\* Steps you must take in order to reach NIRVANA

- Nirvana – Release from all selfishness and pain
- Eightfold Path:
  - 1) Right Understanding
  - 2) Right aspirations
  - 3) Right speech
  - 4) Right Conduct
  - 5) Right livelihood
  - 6) Right Effort
  - 7) Right Mindfulness
  - 8) Right Concentration

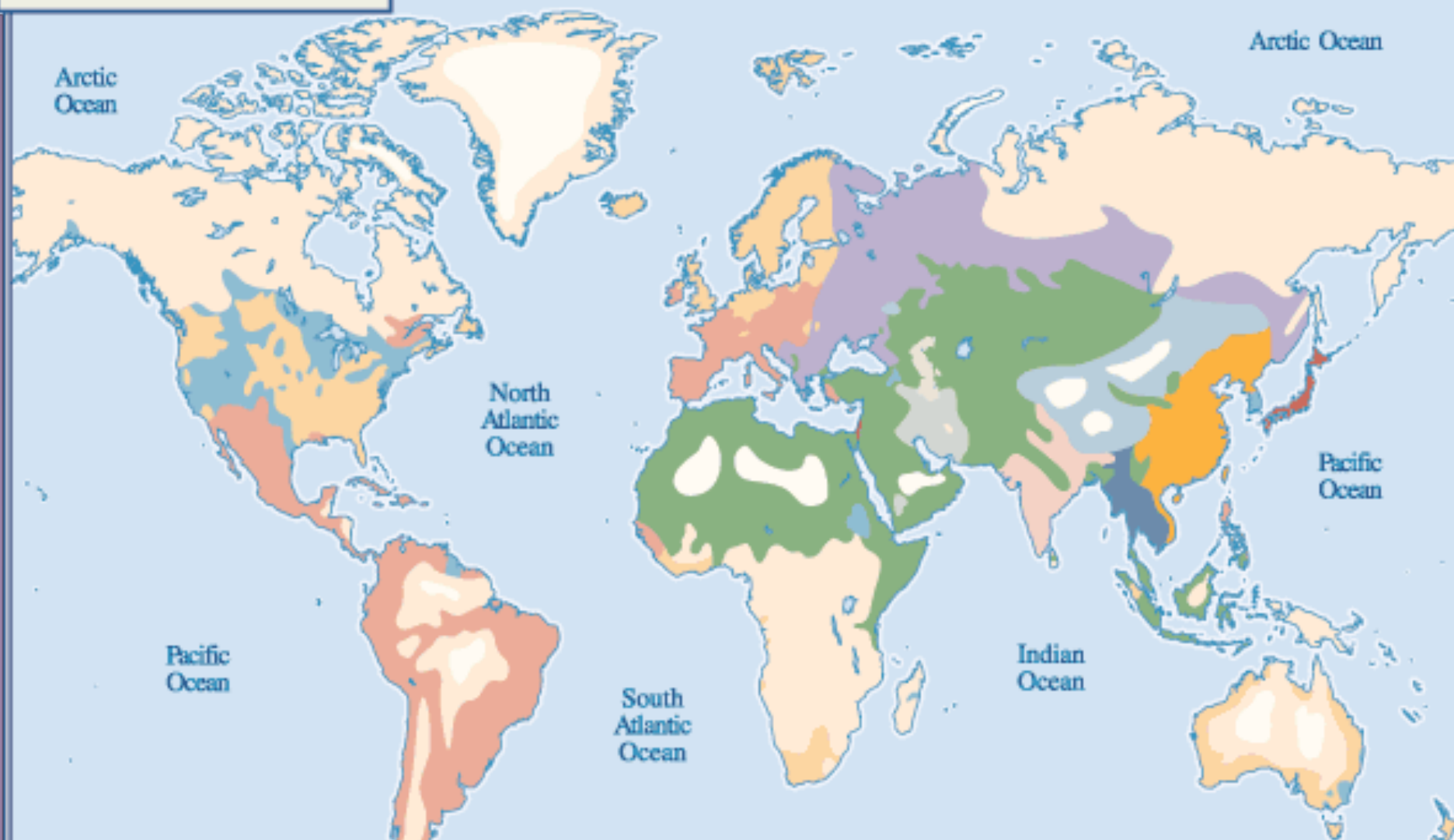


# Buddha

- Accepted the idea of reincarnation
- Rejected the many gods of Hinduism
- Rejected the caste system
- Did not want to be worshipped



# WORLD RELIGIONS



<b>Christianity</b>	<b>Japanese</b>	<b>Islam</b>	<b>Hinduism</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #C85130; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Roman</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #8064A2; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Eastern</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFC300; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Protestant</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #4682B4; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Various sects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #8B0000; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Buddhism, Shintoism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #388E3C; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Sunni</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #A9A9A9; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Shia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #D2B48C; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Also Christianity, Sikh, Buddhism, etc.</li> </ul>
	<b>Chinese</b>	<b>Buddhism</b>	<b>Judaism</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FF8C00; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Buddhism, Taoism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Lamaism</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #191970; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Southern</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #8B0000; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> And widely scattered communities</li> </ul>
	<b>Local</b>		<b>Uninhabited</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFDAB9; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Animism</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFFFFF; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Uninhabited</li> </ul>

# First Empires of India



# The Maurya Empire

- Chandragupta: gained power in Indus Valley
  - Conquered northern India
  - Maintained order with a well organized government
    - Supervisors
    - Tax collectors
    - Royal court system
  - Effective but harsh leadership
    - Secret police force




# Asoka

- Most honored Maurya emperor
- Grandson of Chandragupta
- Was involved in war, then turned to Buddhism
  - Became peaceful
  - Rule by moral example
  - Brought peace and prosperity
  - Unite his diverse empire
  - Paved the way for Buddhism in his empire

# From Maurya to Gupta

- Asoka died, Maurya power declined
  - Rival groups battled for control
- 500 years later, Gupta dynasty unites India
  - (Golden Age)



 Gupta Empire, end of 4th century AD

 Current political boundaries of India

# Empires: China

# Religion and Philosophy in China

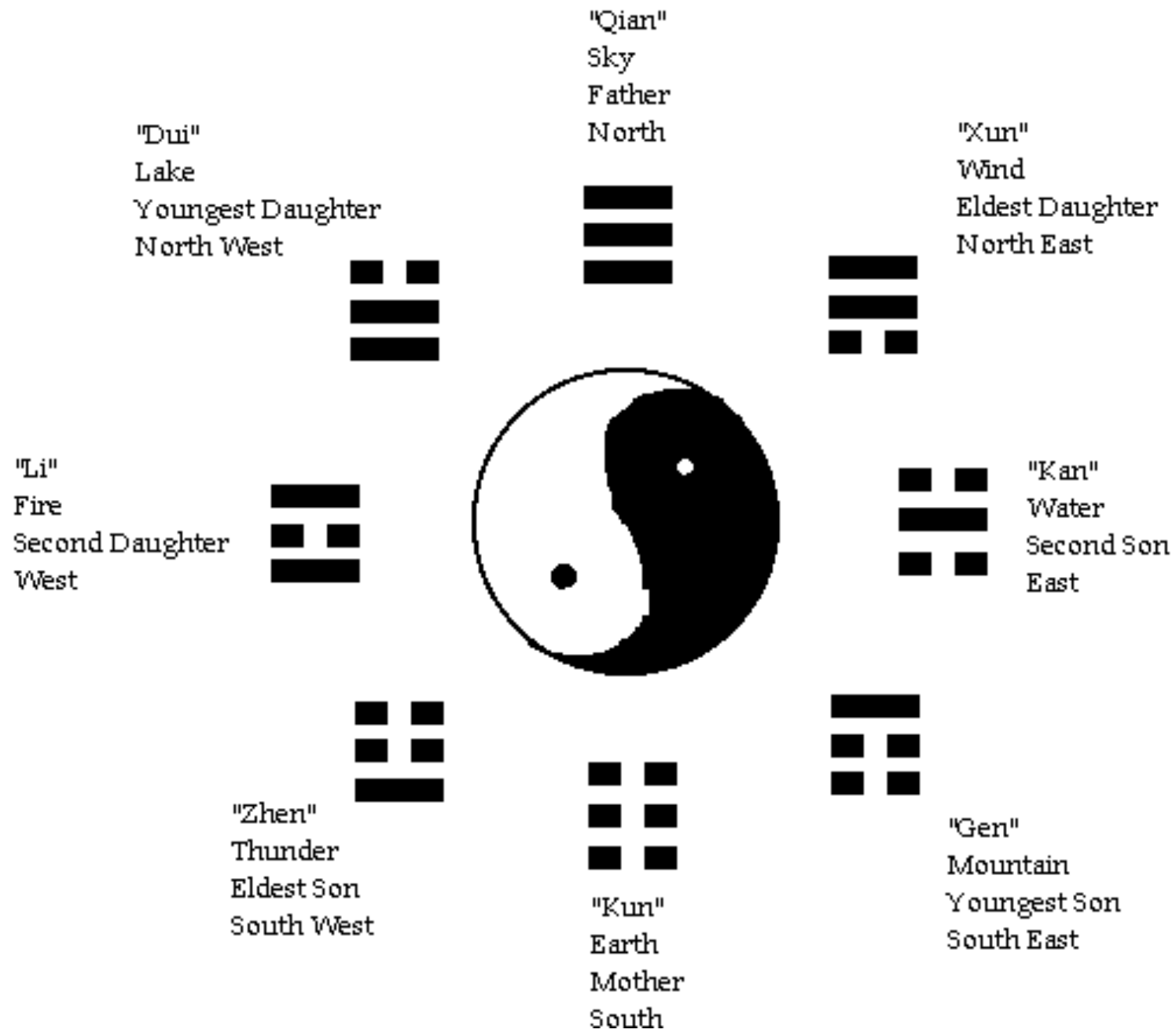
- Confucius
  - Scholar
  - Social order and good government
  - Respect for elders



# Daoism

- Sought to live in harmony with nature
  - *The Way of Virtue*
- Best government was the one that governed the least (government is unnatural, and therefore, caused many problems).
- Proper form of human activity – act in harmony with the universe and let nature take its course
  - Yin & Yang – harmony needs 2 elements to be in balance

☐ ☐ Yin symbol  
☐ Yang symbol



# Legalism

- Hanfeizi – way to achieve order is to pass harsh punishments
- “The nature of man is evil. His goodness is acquired”
- Provide rich rewards to those who obey
- Punish those who don't



# Qin Dynasty

- Qin (Ch'in) Dynasty
  - Shi Huangdi- “First Emperor”
    - 13 years old
  - United China
- Promoted unity by
  - Standardizing coins
  - Uniform writing system
  - Extend roads and canals
- Harsh rule
  - Banished books on Confucius
  - Ruled by Legalism



# Shi Huangdi

- Plots to have him killed
  - Family members
  - Became paranoid
- Died suddenly at age 39
- Terracotta soldiers (next slide)
  - 8,000 life-size figures of warriors and horses
  - Built to defend Shi Huangdi in the afterlife







*John*

# Shi Huangdi

- Great Wall of China (over 6000 miles long)
  - Symbolized unification of Chinese people to want to protect their civilization
    - Keep invaders out, keep Chinese people in
  - Work on the wall or die
    - Many died anyway while working
    - Buried in the wall
- Shi Huangdi's death
  - Taken over by the Han Dynasty



# The Han Dynasty (206 B.C.E – 220)

## – Restore order and justice

- Lowered taxes
- Eased harsh Legalist policies
- Appointed Confucius scholars as advisors
- Made Confucianism official belief system of the state
- Government officials should win position by merit instead of family background



# Achievements of the Han Golden Age

- Trade: Silk Road (trade route stretched 4,000 miles eventually linking China to Fertile Crescent)
- Science: Chemistry, astronomy, seismology,
- Medicine: Anesthetics, herbal remedies, acupuncture
- Technology: manufacture paper, rudder system, stirrups, wheelbarrows, suspension bridges, fishing reels
- The Arts: Temples, Palaces, jade and ivory carvings