



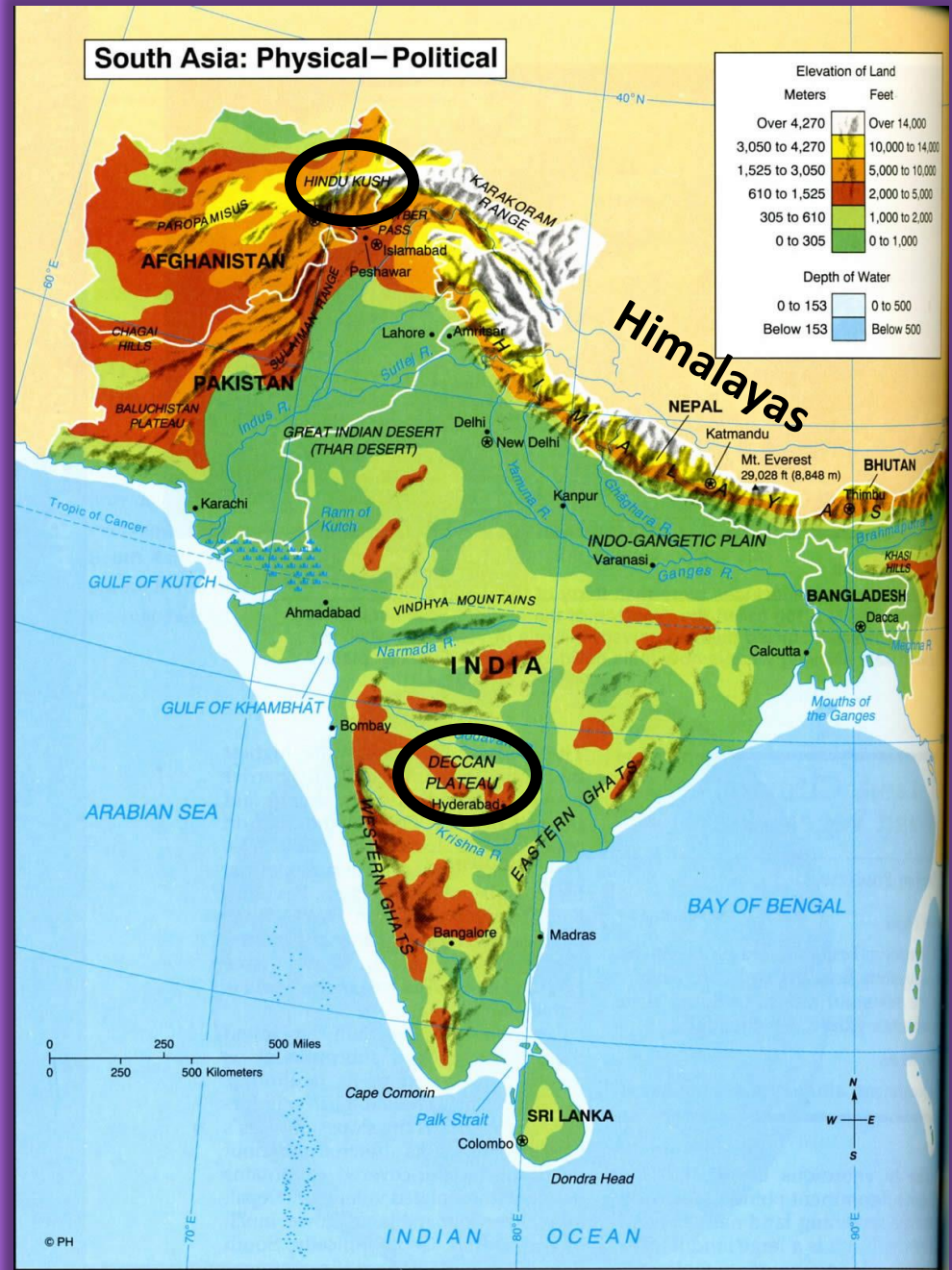
# **Indian Empires: Mauryan and Gupta**

**After a civilization falls, what impact does it  
have on history?**

**How do belief systems unite or divide  
people?**

# Geography

- Deccan Plateau, dry, sparsely populated
- Mountains (Himalayas and Hindu Kush) protect from foreign invaders



# Geography

- Rivers (**Indus** and **Ganges**) provided water and fertile soil
- Coastal plains allowed for farming, fishing and trading

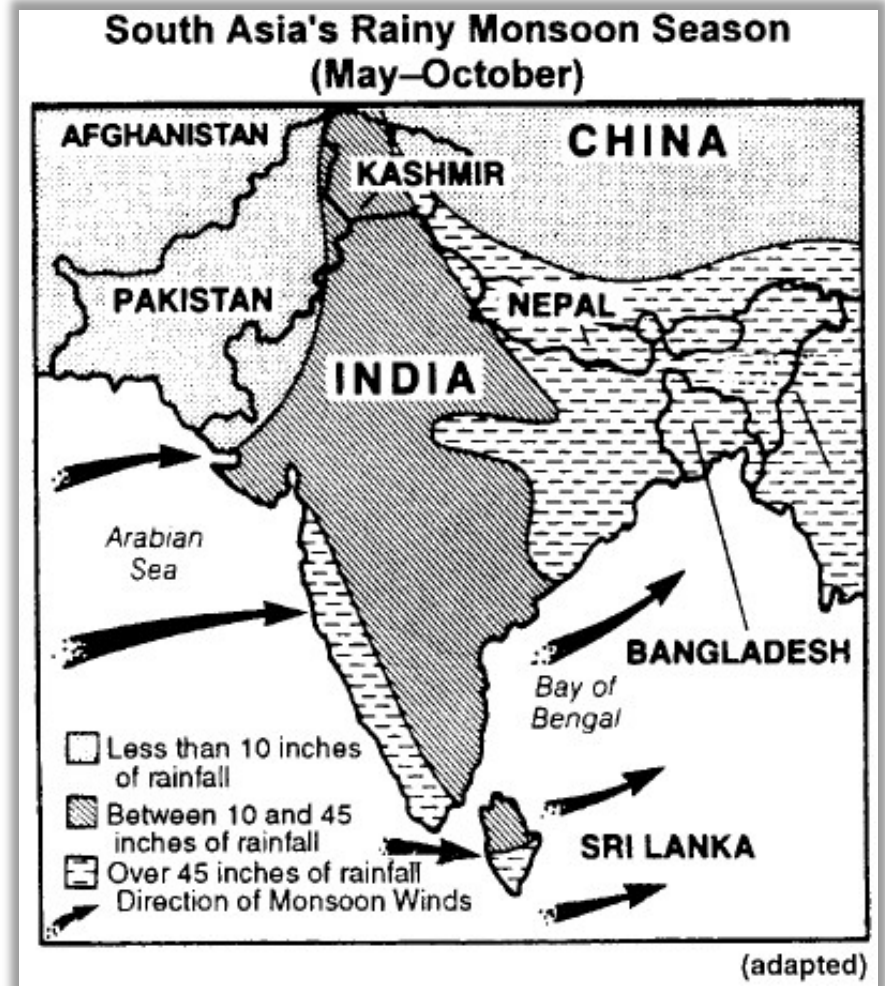
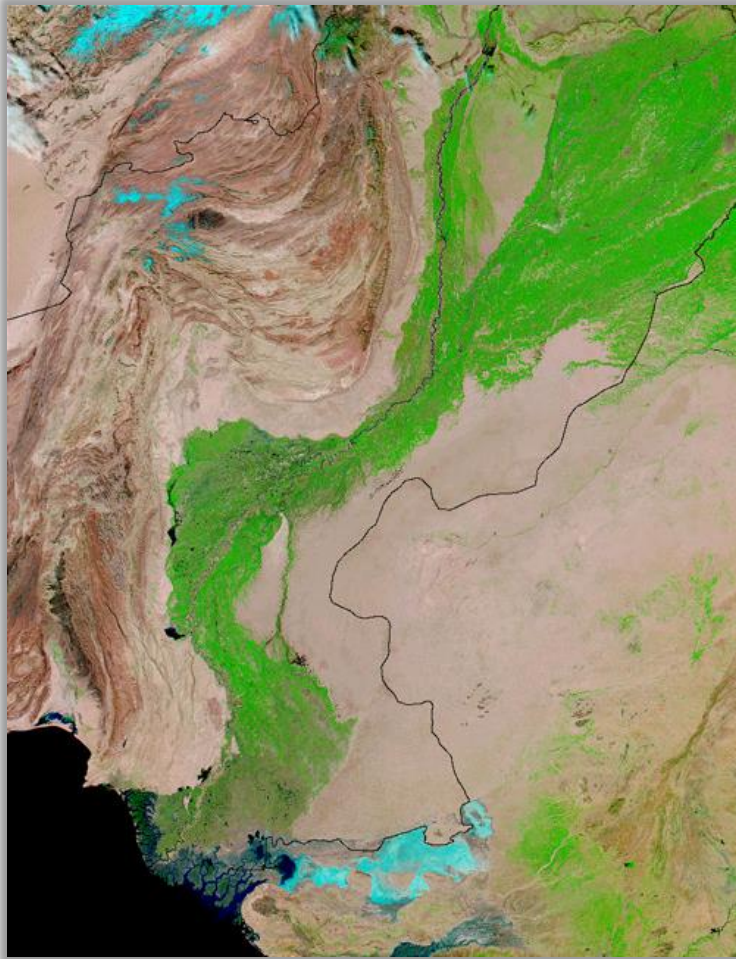


# Indus River Valley

## Geography

- The Indus River Valley is located in the modern nation of **Pakistan**
- Mountains to the north and northwest limit India's contact with other cultures
- **Monsoons** bring rain every summer
  - Monsoons are very important for growing crops
  - Monsoons can also be deadly if it rains too much

# Indus



# Indus

## Cities

- Two main cities are named **Harappa** and **Mohenjo-Daro**
- Cities cover a large area and are **well-planned**
  - Streets are in a grid pattern
  - Large granaries stored crops
  - Houses were made of bricks
    - Had plumbing with baths and sewers

# Indus



# Indus

## Invaders

- Around 1750 B.C. the Indus Valley civilization began to decline
- In about 1500 B.C. nomadic warriors called **Aryans** may have conquered the Indus Valley



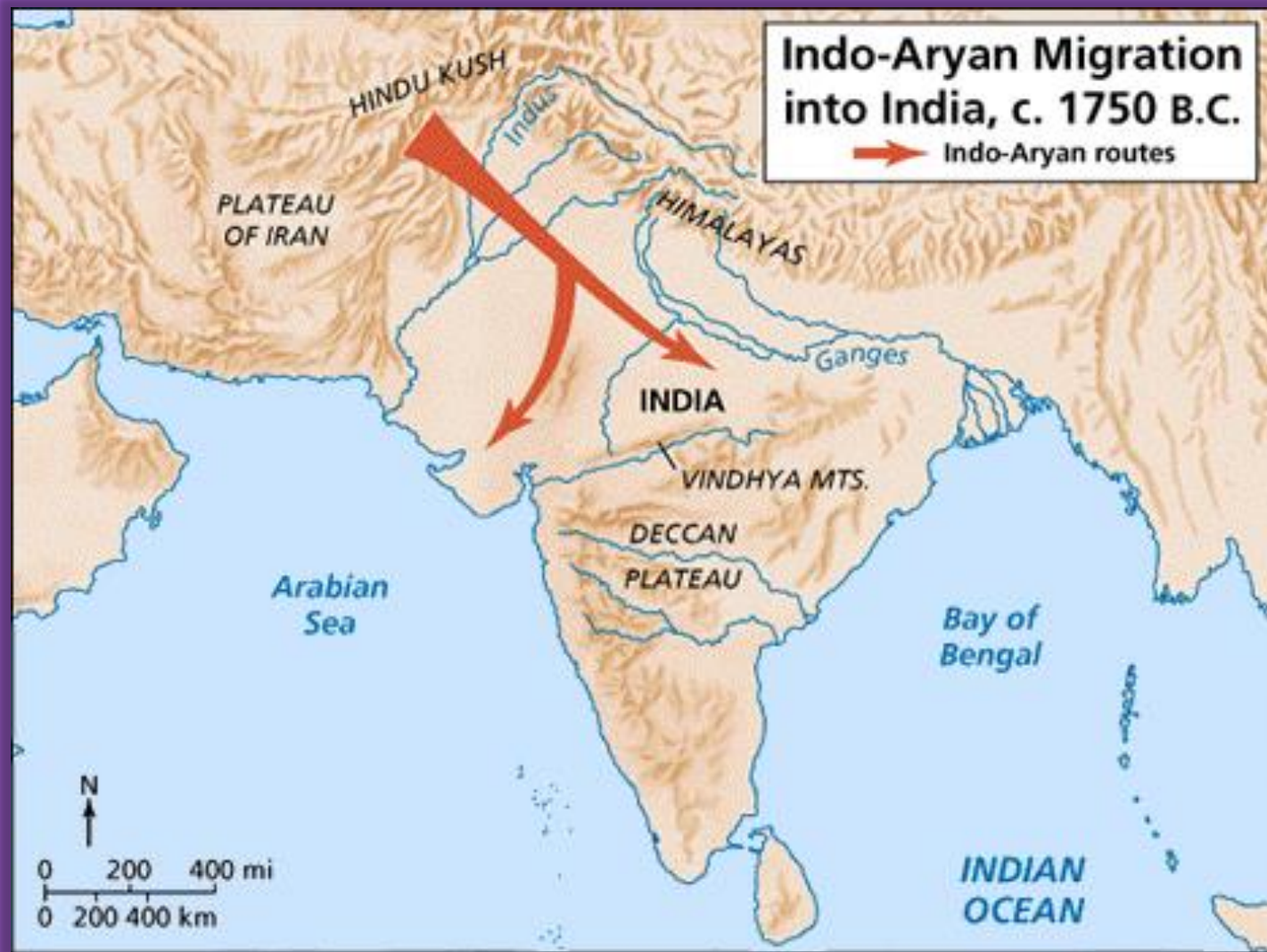
# Aryans (1500-500 BC)

- Aryans were Indo-European warriors who moved into India from Europe and Asia in search of food
- What we know of them comes from the **Vedas** (a collection of sacred writings)

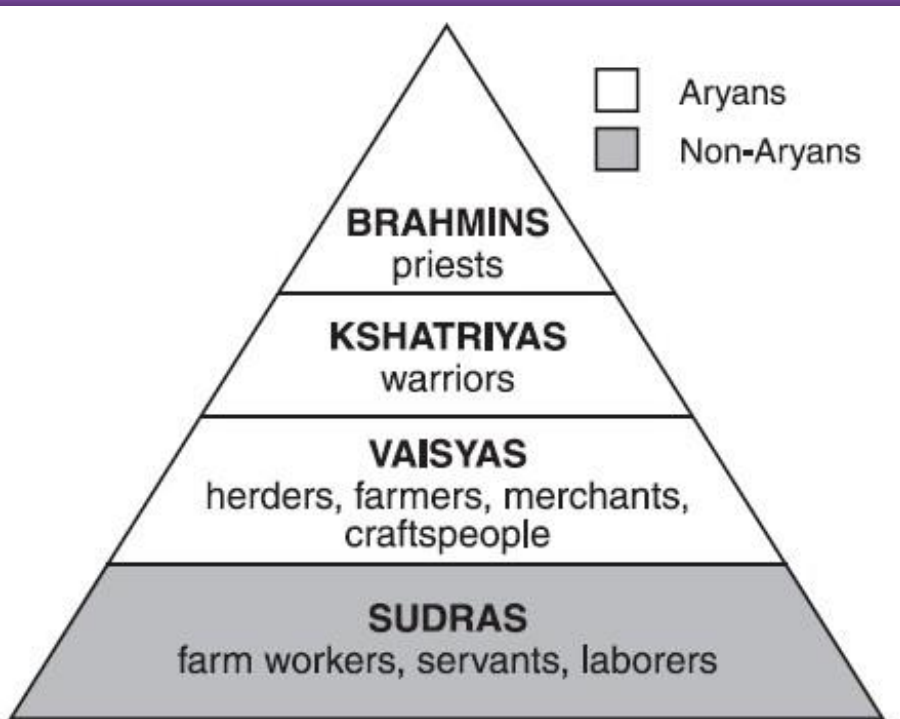


- Aryans mingled with the people they conquered and a new Indian civilization emerged → **Hinduism** develops out of this mixing of cultures

# Aryans (1500-500 BC)



# Aryans and the Development of Hinduism

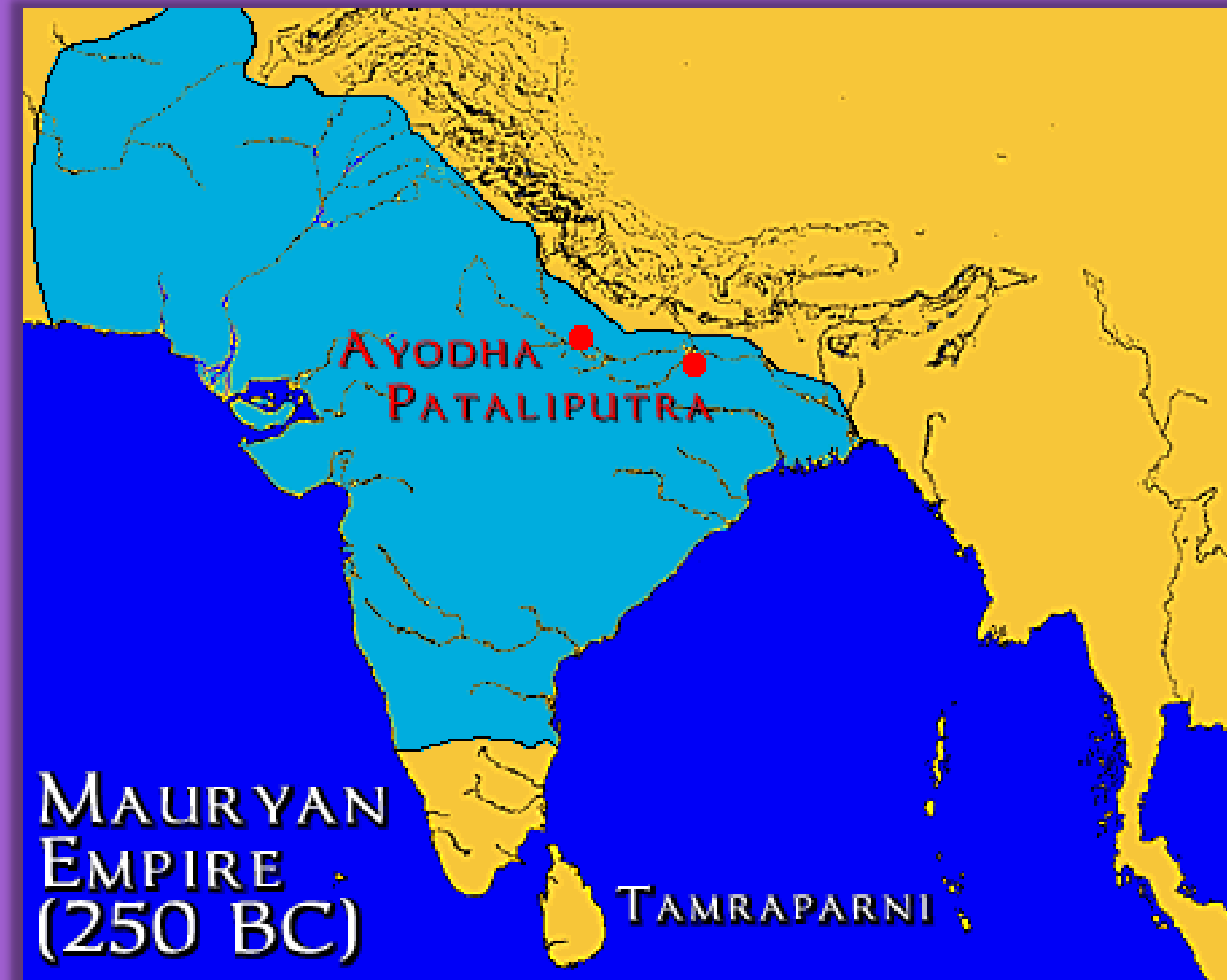


Source: *Guide to the Essentials of World History*,  
Prentice Hall, 1999 (adapted)

- Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world and has **no single founder**
- **Caste System** develops
  - Starts with four castes



# Mauryan Empire (321-185 BC)



# Mauryan Empire (321-185BC)

- Chandragupta Maurya started the Mauryan dynasty after conquering rival kingdoms in northern India
  - Chandragupta was a harsh ruler and used a brutal secret police to control his empire



# Mauryan Empire: Government

- first to bring a **centralized and unified** government to the Indian subcontinent
- Like other classical civilizations, Mauryans had a bureaucracy
  - **Bureaucracy**=system of managing government through departments run by appointed officials
    - Collect taxes
    - Maintain order
    - Oversee trade
    - Built roads

# Mauryan Empire: Government

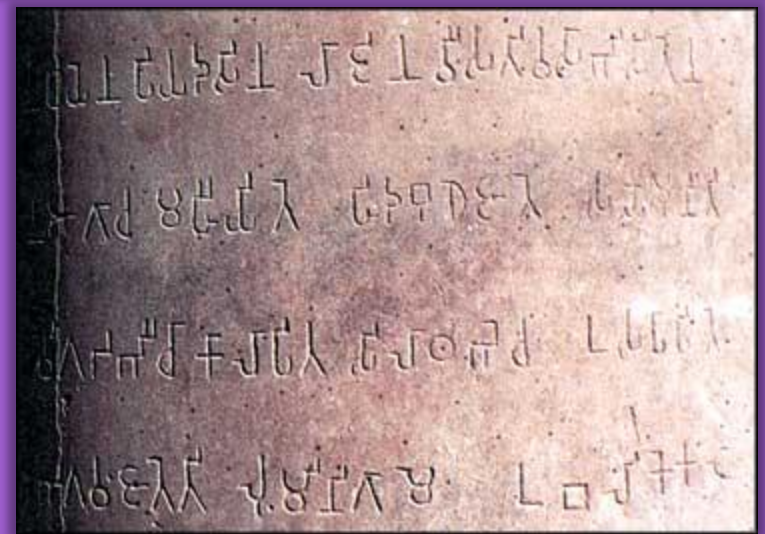
- **Asoka**

- Chandragupta's grandson
- Starts as a conqueror and then  
Changes his ways
- Turned Buddhist, but tolerant of  
other beliefs
  - Wants to rule by moral  
example rather than  
violence and conquest



# Mauryan Empire: Government

- Brought peace, prosperity, and unity
- Builds roads, hospitals, Buddhist shrines
- **Pillars of Asoka=tall stone pillars built throughout India that were inscribed with laws and Buddhist teachings**
- Empire declined after his death



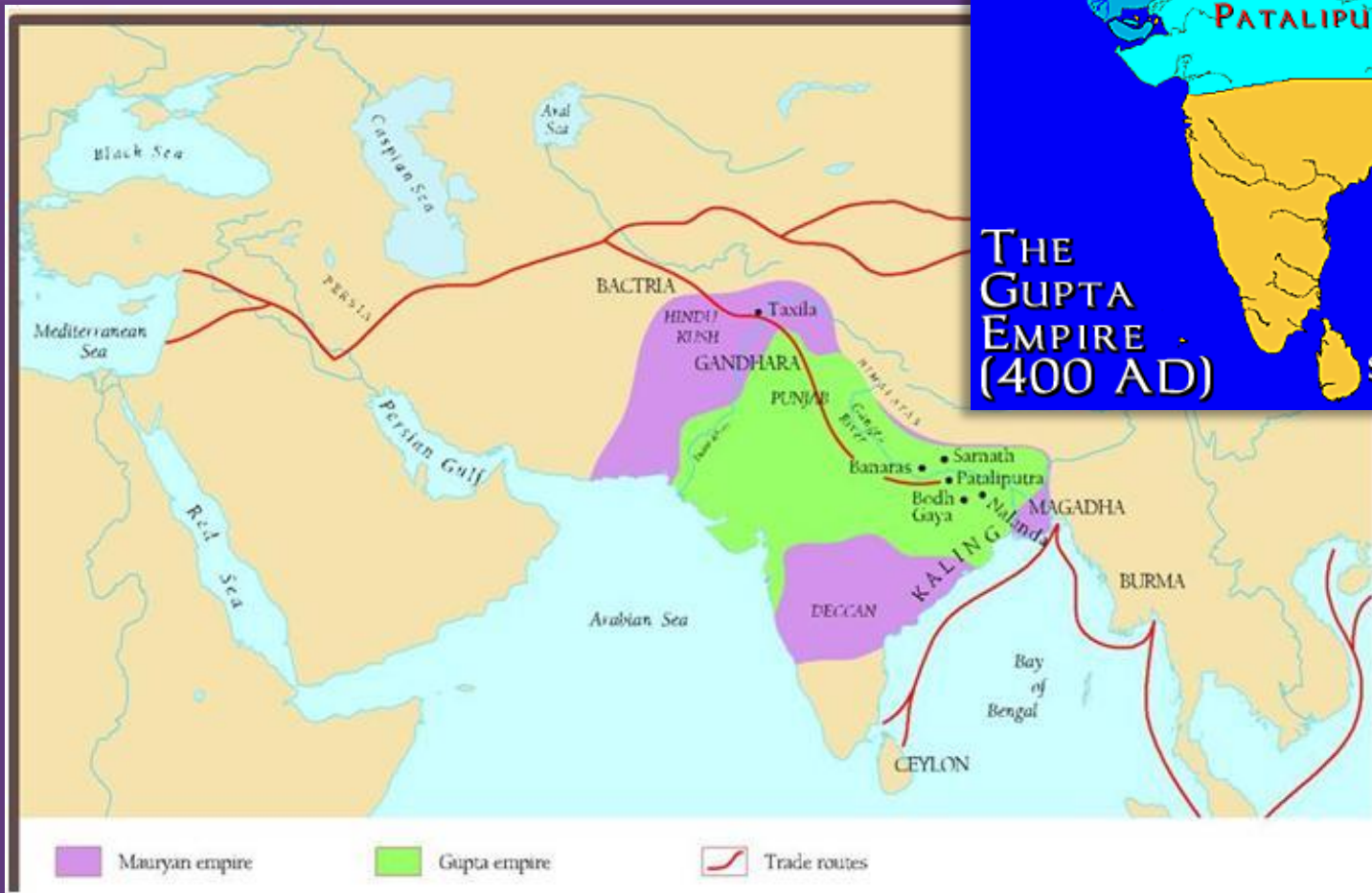


# Mauryan: Contributions

- United India for first time
- Trade flourished
  - Trade cotton and spices with Rome
- Pataliputra one of the largest and richest cities of its time—schools, libraries, advanced learning
- **Buddhist** religion spread through missionary activity

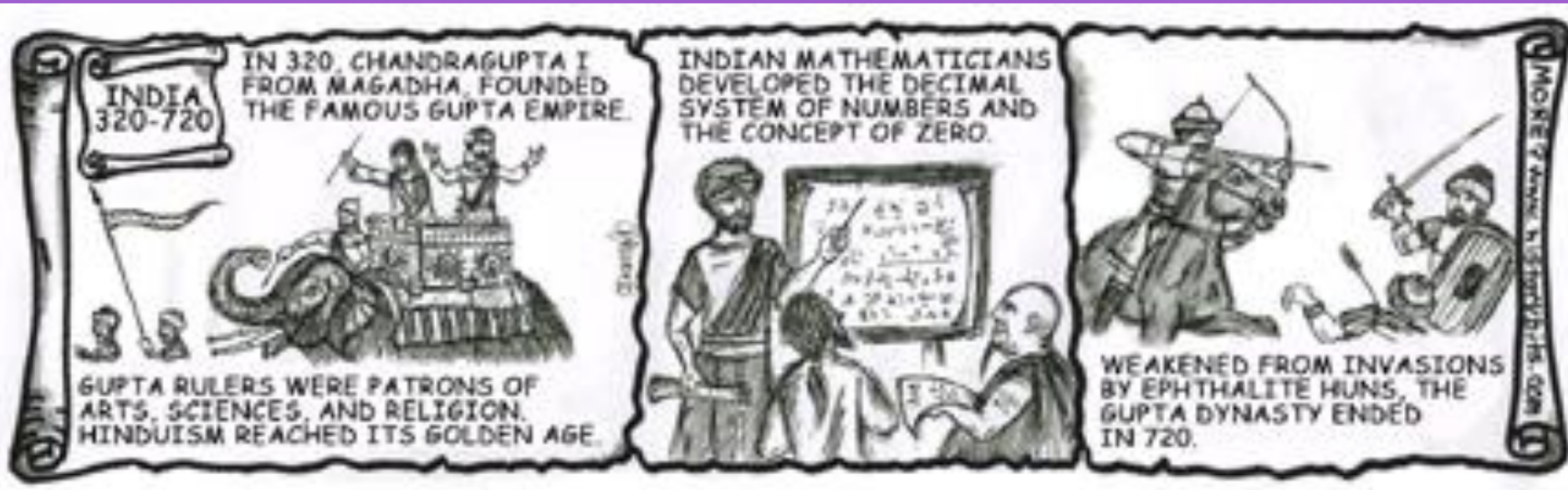


# Gupta Dynasty (320-550 AD)



# Gupta Dynasty (320-550 AD)

## ★ Golden Age ★



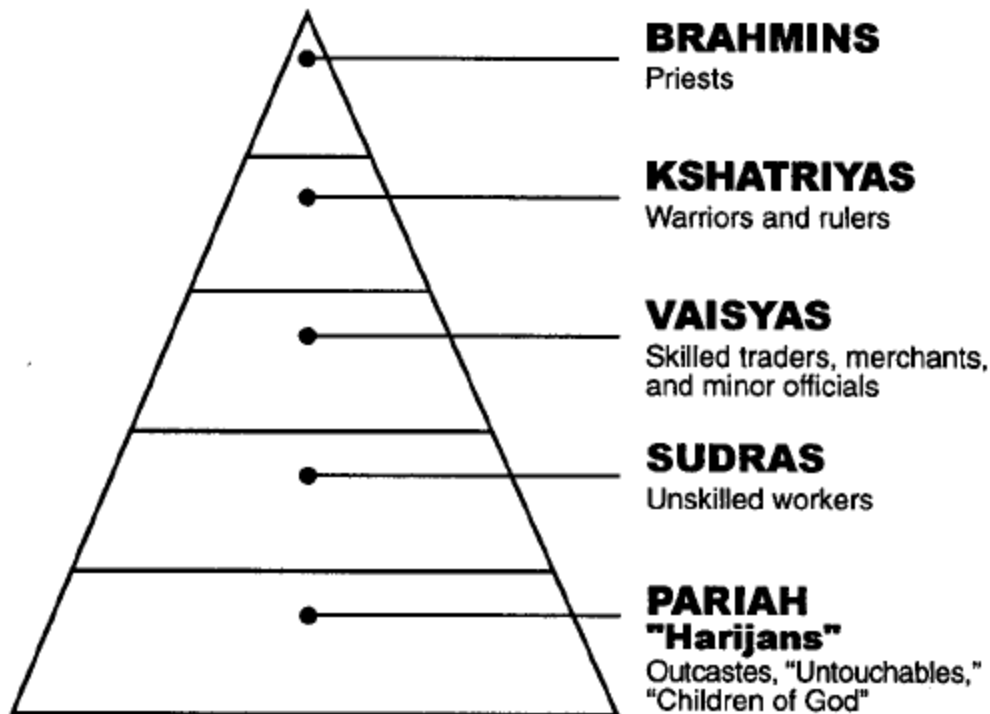
# Gupta: Government

- **Centralized government** based in Pataliputra
- Adopts and actively promotes **Hinduism**
  - Affected social life through the **caste system**
  - Regulated society—everyone has a role
  - Expanded from 4 basic groups to include many more



# Gupta: Beliefs and Society

- Village Life is center of Gupta society
  - Governed by caste rules and traditions- stable society
  - **Untouchables**- outcasts who lived harsh lives- had “impure” jobs (cleaning streets, digging graves)

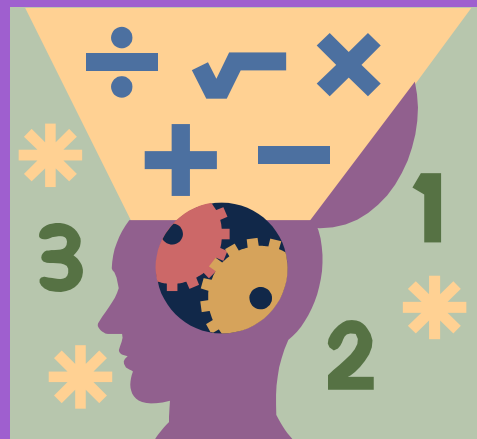
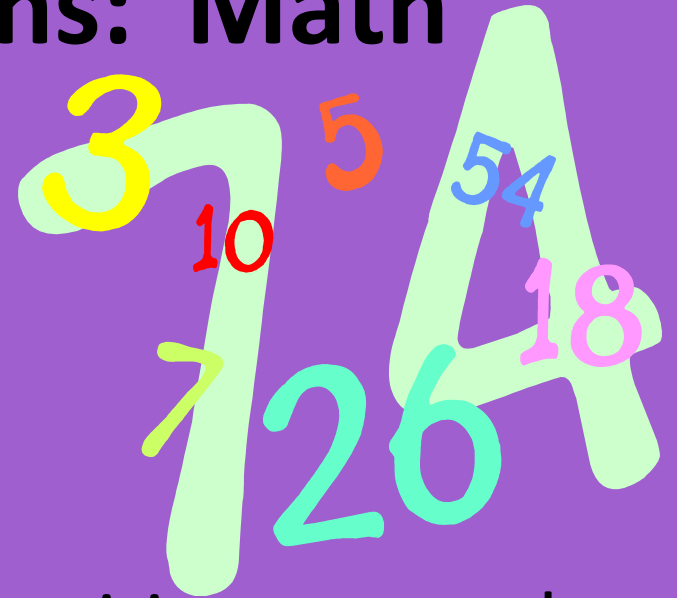


# Gupta: Beliefs and Society

- Local loyalties important in this diverse society
- Family life in villages
  - **Joint families**- common home shared with parents, children, grandparents, uncles, etc
  - **Patriarchal**- father or oldest male as head of household
  - **Arranged marriages**- marry only within their caste

# Gupta Contributions: Math

- Experienced a **Golden Age**
- concept of zero (0)
- the **decimal system**
- **Arabic numerals**—system of writing numerals still used today that the Arabs brought from India to Europe



# Gupta Contributions: Medicine

- herbs and other remedies
- set bones
- plastic surgery
- vaccinations against smallpox





# Gupta Contributions: Literature

- Fables and folk tales in **Sanskrit** were recorded
- Kalidasa- poet and playwright



# Gupta Contributions: Ajanta Caves

- Buddhist artwork (paintings and sculpture)



# Gupta: End of Empire

- Weak rulers
- Foreign invasions (White Huns from Central Asia)
- India breaks into small kingdoms
- Gupta and Mauryan only civilizations able to unite the **subcontinent**

