

# India in the Classical Age

- Throughout most of its history, the subcontinent of India is divided into \_\_\_\_\_, and not \_\_\_\_\_ under one ruler.
- The classical Mauryan and Gupta empires are \_\_\_\_\_ but important interludes because they laid the foundations for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the subcontinent and into Asia that persisted well past their dynasties.

## The Mauryan Empire

### Alexander the Great

- Alexander conquered by \_\_\_\_\_ in northwest India, 326 BC
- Did not remain in India long
- Battle-weary soldiers wanted to return home, soon left India

### Chandragupta Maurya

- Alexander's conquest \_\_\_\_\_ Chandragupta Maurya
- Seized throne of kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_, 321 BC
- Began Mauryan empire
- Built immense \_\_\_\_\_, 60,000 soldiers including chariots and war elephants
- Began conquering northern India
- Defeated Seleucus I, 305 BC
- Mauryan empire controlled northern India by 303 BC
- Also controlled much of what is now Afghanistan

### Mauryan Government

#### Strong Government

- Like Qin and Han rulers, Chandragupta Maurya established a \_\_\_\_\_ government to control the empire; crushed any \_\_\_\_\_
- Relied on brilliant adviser \_\_\_\_\_, Brahmin / member
- Chandragupta divided the empire into \_\_\_\_\_ and appointed \_\_\_\_\_ to rule them
- Organized a bureaucratic government, \_\_\_\_\_ monitored officials, gathered information, rooted out threats to state

#### Arthashastra

- A manual for \_\_\_\_\_ and administrative principles, thought to be written by Kautilya
- Called for \_\_\_\_\_ state control
- Also called for use of spies, even assassination

## Ashoka (India's greatest emperor)

- Chandragupta gave up throne in 301 BCE and became a Jainist monk
- Son became emperor, followed by grandson **Ashoka** (268 BCE)
- Mauryan empire reached its \_\_\_\_\_ under Ashoka
- Through warfare empire \_\_\_\_\_, included most of India
- A skilled governor who utilized a strong bureaucracy under his direct control including a central \_\_\_\_\_
- Established the capital at Pataliputra
- Developed \_\_\_\_\_ such as irrigation systems and imperial roads to encourage agricultural developments and trade
- Centralized \_\_\_\_\_ were communicated on inscribed pillars through the empire (\_\_\_\_\_)
- Ashoka was a great \_\_\_\_\_ as a youth, known for the brutality of his conquests
- Became sickened by the violence of war after one of his greatest victories at \_\_\_\_\_
- Abandoned his policy of conquest and converted to \_\_\_\_\_

- Began to promote a policy of right conduct: Buddhism
- Supported Buddhist \_\_\_\_\_, worked to improve the lives of his people
- Advocated \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, spreading those ideals throughout India by means of his **Rock and Pillar Edicts**, which were carved on rocks and pillars throughout the empire. These edicts reminded Mauryans to live \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ lives.
- Admired for his justice and wisdom
- Remains famous for his efforts to create \_\_\_\_\_ between Buddhists, Hindus, and the followers of India's other religions.

### Decline of the Mauryan Empires

- The Mauryan empire began to decline following the death of Ashoka, 232 BC
- Sons battled for \_\_\_\_\_ and central control weakened
- Distant provinces began to slip away
- Last Mauryan emperor was killed by one of generals, 184 BC
- Mauryan empire lasted \_\_\_\_\_ years, then collapsed

## Regional Kingdoms

As the Mauryan Empire collapsed, India again divided into many regional kingdoms. These kingdoms differed in the north and south.

- **Northern India**
  - Invaders from Central Asia established new dynasties
  - Many had been displaced by expansion of \_\_\_\_\_
- **Bactrians (Greeks)**
  - Greek invaders from what is now Afghanistan formed \_\_\_\_\_ dynasties
  - Introduced Greek \_\_\_\_\_ forms to India, influenced local styles
- **Kushans**
  - Conquered much of north during first century AD
  - Restored some of grandeur of \_\_\_\_\_ Empire to region
  - Height in power coming under the rule of Emperor \_\_\_\_\_ (78-103 C.E.)
    - Played a crucial role in the Silk Road trading network.
  - Kushan dynasty fell, AD 250

## The Gupta Empire

- Controlled the region from 320-550 CE.
- Created a tributary empire that was less centralized than the Mauryans
- Continued to provide peace and prosperity – critical to the \_\_\_\_\_ trade networks of the silk roads (if it's not safe, people won't travel)
- Territory included much of the former Mauryan empire but was \_\_\_\_\_ overall
  - Controlled every area except the Deccan Plateau and the southern tip of India
- Chandra Gupta (no relation to Chandragupta Maurya) and his two successors expanded the empire
- Government was more similar to the \_\_\_\_\_ than the Mauryans
  - Left governing in the provinces to local allies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ invasions from the northwest split the Gupta empire into its original regions
- The last Gupta rulers lost their power to regional rulers
- India became a continent of many kingdoms AGAIN.

## Importance of These Empires

- They provided peace and prosperity to the region and to travelers across the \_\_\_\_\_, but without the classical \_\_\_\_\_ of Persia and China.
- India's \_\_\_\_\_ location to both land and maritime trade becomes even more significant in this time period.
- Reoccurring \_\_\_\_\_ invasions (White Huns) challenged the strength of both empires.

## ***Economic Development***

The success of \_\_\_\_\_ metallurgy and great \_\_\_\_\_ allowed Indian to develop more urban centers and fostered more trade. However, both of these developments also \_\_\_\_\_ the caste system.

## ***Towns and Trade***

- Indian craftsman provided numerous \_\_\_\_\_ products for the common and elite classes.
- Many towns in India provided marketplaces to \_\_\_\_\_ goods from thousands of workshops.
- Long-distance \_\_\_\_\_ was carried out primarily through the northwest region, following the roads built by the Persians, and maintained by Alexander and Chandragupta.
- The endpoints of direct Indian trade along this route were \_\_\_\_\_ in the east and \_\_\_\_\_ in the west.

## ***Family Life***

- Despite the ideal of the \_\_\_\_\_ family living in one household, most Indians lived with their \_\_\_\_\_ families.
- Only the highest castes with wealth came close to the ideal.

## ***Role of Women***

- Gender distinctions trace back to the \_\_\_\_\_ tradition of recognizing descent through the male line.
  - Women had no public \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Women could only \_\_\_\_\_ land if there were no male heirs.
  - Women could not preside over family \_\_\_\_\_ rituals.
  - Women received almost no formal \_\_\_\_\_
  - **The Lawbook of Manu** – proper \_\_\_\_\_ of women was to bear children and maintain the home.
  - Practice of \_\_\_\_\_, the sacrifice of widows on their husband's funeral pyre (although never widely practiced), was a powerful illustration of a woman's devotion to her husband.
- In the classical age, women's positions became even more \_\_\_\_\_ to men.
- Women were viewed as \_\_\_\_\_ in Hindu epics, **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata**.
- And, the evidence that the patriarchy became more dominant is that the number of \_\_\_\_\_ betrothed to men in their twenties increased.
- Nevertheless, it is still highly probably that women dominated \_\_\_\_\_ issues.

## ***The Caste System***

### **Origins**

- The Aryans' social hierarchy, which rested on sharp, \_\_\_\_\_ distinctions between individuals and groups according to their \_\_\_\_\_ and roles in society, served to maintain \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and became the foundation of the caste system.
- This system developed gradually as growing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with Dravidians (south Asian peoples') prompted the Aryans to shift from their traditionally simply hierarchy to a more complex system based on \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ = the Sanskrit term for social distinctions (suggests they may have originally been based on skin color)
  - **Brahmins** = priests
  - **Kshatriyas** = warriors and aristocrats
  - **Vaishyas** = cultivators, artisans, and merchants
  - **Shudras** = landless peasants and serfs

## Classical Age

- In classical times, it continued with its four major groups but a new \_\_\_\_\_ began to emerge.
- As trade and industry took off, groups of merchants and craftsman formed \_\_\_\_\_ to set prices and provide aid to their members.
- The guilds functioned more as subcastes, or \_\_\_\_\_, with primary responsibility to all members of their occupation.
- Social stability and security became a function of \_\_\_\_\_ groups rather than governmental bodies.
- In addition, tremendous \_\_\_\_\_ generated by increased manufacturing often gave more influence to members of the two \_\_\_\_\_ castes than the two \_\_\_\_\_ castes.
- During this time, the absolute \_\_\_\_\_ of castes over life in India became more solidified.

***Use the PowerPoint provided to take notes on daily life and the Golden Age of Gupta India.  
Use the space below for your notes.***