**INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION:**

The Indus civilization is one of three in the 'Ancient East' that, along with Mesopotamia and Paranoiac Egypt. The [Indus Valley Civilization](https://www.ancient.eu/Indus_Valley_Civilization/) is located in what is Pakistan and northwest [India](https://www.ancient.eu/india/) today.

**THE LIFE OF THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION**

Two cities, in particular, have been excavated at the sites of Mohenjo-Daro on the lower Indus, and at Harappa, further upstream. The evidence suggests that they had a highly developed [city](https://www.ancient.eu/city/) life, and are noted for their urban planning, baked brick houses, elaborate drainage systems, water supply systems, and clusters of large non-residential buildings. Children’s toys were found in the cities, with few weapons of war, suggesting peace and prosperity. Their trade seals decorated with animals and mythical beings indicate that they conducted thriving trade with lands as far away as [Sumer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumer) in southern [Mesopotamia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesopotamia).

**DECLINE OF THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION**

On the decline of the Indus valley civilization, number of explanations have been put forward ranging from; environmental causes like droughts, floods, changing river courses and sea levels, heavy earthquake , reduction in food, tectonic shifts due to Aryan invasions , no defence armor , disruptions in trade and social instabilities. These are said to be the causes of its declination.

**Alexander conquest of India:**

The Indian campaign of [Alexander the Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great) began in 326 BC. After conquering the [Achaemenid Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire) of [Persia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persia), the [Macedonian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedon) king (and now the great king of the Persian Empire), Alexander, launched a campaign into the Indian subcontinent.

After gaining control of the former Achaemenid [satrapy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satrapy) of [Gandhara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gandhara), including the city of [Taxila](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxila), Alexander advanced into [Punjab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab). The [Battle of the Jhelum river](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Hydaspes_river) against a regional Indian King , [Porus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porus), is considered by many historians. Subsequently, his army refused to cross the [Beas River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beas_River), fearful of the powerful [Nanda Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanda_Empire) which lay to the East along the banks of the [Ganges](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ganges). Therefore, Alexander turned south, advancing through southern Punjab and [Sindh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindh), along the way conquering more tribes along the lower [Indus River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indus_River), before returning into the west.

While considering the conquests of [Carthage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carthage) and [Rome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome), Alexander died in [Babylon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon) on June 10 or 11, 323 BC. In 321 BC, two years after Alexander's death, [Chandragupta Maurya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chandragupta_Maurya) of [Magadha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magadha) founded the [Maurya Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maurya_Empire) in India.

Explanation:

Alexander defeated Porus in the Battle of Hydaspes in 326BC. But, he was impressed by the courage and valour shown by Porus in the battle and so he asked Porus how he would like to be treated after the defeat. Porus replied that Alexander should treat him in the same way a king treats another king. Then, Alexander allowed him to retain his territory under the overall sovereignty of Alexander. Alexander’s army was continuously in a mode of conquest and when they reached North-West India the whole Battle with Porus was very tiring for the soldiers of Alexander. After Porus, they were now facing the mighty Nanda’s army in India which is said to be even stronger than the army of Porus. Since his soldiers were exhausted of continuous fighting they declined to fight further wars and demanded to return back to west.

A dejected Alaxender had to abandon his plans of territorial exapansions and so he returned back to Macedonia without completing his Indian conquest.

MAURYA EMPIRE:

Maurya was an ancient Indian dynasty. It was founded by Chandragupta Maurya, when he conquered the Magadha kingdom and established his capital at Pataliputra (now Patna). His son, Bindusara and his grandson, Ashoka were the most notable ruler of ancient India. The most significant feature of the empire is that for the first time in history Ashoka brought nearly all India, together with Afghanistan, under one administration. Mauryan culture represents the first great flowering of Indian civilization, which cannot to be equaled until the coming of the Gupta dynasty.

The Mauryans brought about administrative unity, encouraged the construction of roads, popularized alphabetic writing, expanded coin currency, propagated a lingua franca and finally provided common moral bases especially in Ashoka’s reign to support the edifice of administration. But these features in no way point to homogeneity of life within the empire. The administration that was originally based on bureaucracy devised by Kautaliya degenerated into a paternal form of government in the time of Ashoka. Even administrative unity broke down after Ashoka’s death and brought about the end of the empire. However the empire held together different areas in varying stages of cultural developments.

The Indus region maintained its tribal organization along with pastoral form of life and new agricultural pattern of irrigated lands whereas the Ganges valley had evolved a caste-ridden society by absorbing the tribes into a graded society meant to serve the rising monarchies. The South during the period had vastly differing societies. The pattern of Ashoka was followed for 50 years by a succession of weaker kings. Brhadrata was the last ruler of the Mauryan ruled territories that had shrunk considerably from the time of emperor Ashoka. Nevertheless, he was still upholding the Buddhist faith. After Brhadrata’s assassination in 185 BC, the Sunga empire came to power which led to a wave of persecution of Buddhists, and a resurgence of Hinduism. The fall of the Mauryas left the Khyber unguarded and a wave of foreign invasions followed.