

Classical India vs Classical China

- China focuses on politics and related philosophies, while India focus on religion and social structure.
- Less cohesive political structure than China
- Both were agricultural societies, localist flavor, male ownership, patriarchal, trade.

Buddhism

- Started 563 BCE by Siddhartha Gautama known as Buddha was the enlightened one.
- Searched for the truth and found it, accepted many elements of Hinduism

Disagreed with

1. Caste System
 2. All worldly desires hurt you
 3. Denied importance of rituals and priests.
- Spread by a group of monks by prayer, charity, piety helped spread message.
 - Opposition strong by Brahman as they were closer to the the divine in the caste system.

Four Noble Truths

His journey to find the meaning of life had concluded. The Buddha realized that life is ruled by Four Noble Truths.

1. Life is filled with suffering
2. Suffering is caused by people's want
3. Suffering can be ended if people stop wanting things, like more pleasure and more power
4. To stop wanting things, people must follow 8 basics laws

Eightfold Path

1. To know the truth
2. To intend to resist evil
3. To not say anything to hurt others
4. To respect life, property and morality
5. To work at a job that does not injure others
6. To try to free one's mind from evil
7. To be in control of one's feeling and thoughts
8. To practice appropriate forms of concentration

The Middle Way: The Eightfold Path was designed to guide people without making life too strict or too easy, The Middle Way is the name Buddhists call lives guided by the Eightfold Path. After the Buddha's death in 483 BCE, Buddhism spread rapidly throughout Southern and Eastern Asia.

Terms

Karma: Worldly Pleasures

Ramayana: Real and mystical battle

Dharma: The way of life

Mahabharata: Greatest epic poem

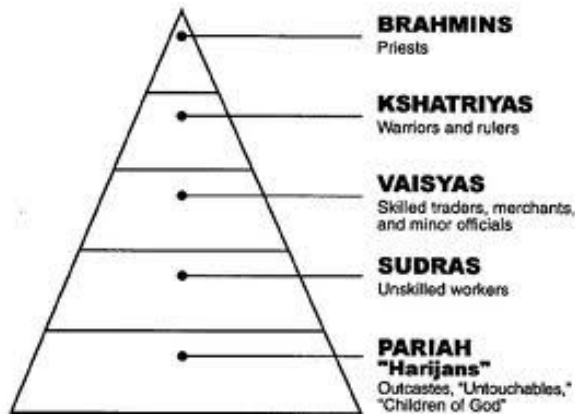
Upanishads: Mystical epic poems- basis for later Hindu beliefs

Bhagavad Gita: classical sacred hymn-reincarnation

Artha: Political and Economic goals

An **epic poem** is a long piece of paper that tells a moral story with an epic battle that must have a hero.

Samsara: Process of reincarnation



Framework for Indian History

- River Civilizations- Indus and Ganges
- Surrounded by mountains north-Himalayas- created herding societies.
- Regions separated by: economic diversity, racial differences and language differences.
- Unstable monsoon climate-helped agriculture at times- harvest two crops in a year, help support large population.
- Development Periods Vedic and Epic ages
- Knowledge passed down through epics written in Sanskrit – Vedas
 - Mahabharata
 - Ramayana
 - Upanishads
- Aryans settled, made tight-knit villages
 - Families patriarchal, connected across generation
 - Aryans created social classes
 - Warrior/governing – Kshatriyas
 - Priests – Brahmins
 - Traders/farmers – Vaisyas
 - Common laborers – Sudras
 - Untouchables – refuse, transporting dead bodies, other lovely jobs
 - Social groups became hereditary
 - Can't marry between castes – punishable by death
 - Broken into smaller subgroups
 - Aryans brought polytheistic religion – similar to Greek myth, Scandinavians
 - One of few polytheistic religions to survive
 - Hymns/sacrifice
 - Upanishads – epic poems
 - Sacred animals – monkeys/cattle
 - Rituals and sacrifice
 - Brahmin class enforced rituals
 - Unifying divine force, seek union with this force

Patterns in Classical India – end of 600 BCE – formative phase

- 16 major states existed – some monarchies, some republics – dominated by warriors/priests
- Eras often created as reaction to invaders
- Mauryan Dynasty – Chandragupta Mauryan 322BCE – unified subcontinent
 - maintained large armies
 - developed bureaucracy
 - highly autocratic – rely on ruler's power
 - style of govt
 - autocratic – based on ruler's personal/military power
 - Ashoka – grandson – lavish lifestyle
 - influenced by nature/spiritualism
 - but...bloodthirsty methods of expansion
 - converted to Buddhism – think Constantine
 - spread Buddhism throughout empire, honored Hinduism – precedent
 - improved trade/ road network
 - Kushans – outside invaders – converted to Buddhism
 - but...bad for Buddhism – connected to outsiders
- Guptas – 320 CE
 - no powerful individual rulers, but greater impact
 - negotiate w/ local princes
 - expanded influence w/out fighting – diff. than above
 - two generations of political stability – think Pax Romana
- Shifted between empires and network of smaller kingdoms
- **Religion and Culture**
 - Hinduism – origins in Vedic and Epic ages
 - Rig-Veda – Creation hymn
 - Difference – no single founder – no central holy figure
 - Grew gradually, sometimes in reaction to other religions – Buddhism/Islam
 - Religious
 - Ritualistic ceremonies performed by brahmins
 - mysticism – unite humans w/ divine
 - encouraged political and economic goals (artha) and worldly pleasures (karma)
 - fluidity – adaptable – tolerant – many suitable paths of worship – Christianity?
 - Brahmanism – Brahman leadership elaborate – called by scholars – dharma by Hindus
 - gods of nature altered – represent abstract
 - Varuna – god of the sky to guardian of right and wrong

- Epic poems – gentle/generous behavior
- Upanishads – shallowness of worldly concerns – wealth/health
- each person's soul part of universe
- religion of rituals vs. religion of mystics
 - mystics – gurus and Brahmas agreed to
 - existence of divine essence – several gods – try to seek union w/ this soul
 - Vishnu – preserved/ Shiva – destroyer
 - takes many lifetimes – reincarnation
 - where soul goes depends on reincarnation
- options for good life
 - meditation/self-discipline – yoga
 - others wanted rituals – cremation, prayers, sacred cows, refrain from beef
 - some believed in lesser nature gods
 - symbolic sacrifices might assist in reincarnation
- life obligations
 - serve family
 - earn money
 - serve in army when necessary
- Bhagavad Gita – classic hymn – OK to kill family, duty, they're reincarnated
- doesn't have strict ethical codes – Ten Commandments
- Why did it spread?
 - satisfying rules of conduct for life
 - incorporated previous religion
 - caste system – better time in future life
- Buddhism – 563 BCE – Siddhartha Gautama – Buddha – enlightened one
 - searched for truth, found it, accepted many elements of Hinduism, but..
 - disagreed with caste system
 - all worldly desires hurt you
 - if you destroy self, can reach nirvana – self-control – regulate life
 - denied importance of rituals/priests
 - spread by group of monks – prayer/charity/piety helped spread message
 - Brahman opposition strong
 - Hinduism still attractive due to mysticism
- Literature
 - Political theory sparse, but wrote about human life
 - “laws of love” – Kamasutra – male/female relationships
 - Recorded epics – lively stories
 - Romantic adventure – separated/returned – romantic/adventure
- Science
 - Supported university – astronomy and medicine
 - Religion prevented dissection
 - Bone setting, plastic surgery, sterilization – reached West much later

- Mathematics – imported through Arabs – but Indian
 - Concept of zero – decimal system
 - negative numbers
 - square roots
 - pi
- Art – lively, but much perished
 - Stupas – spherical shrines to Buddha
 - Not realistic like Greeks, but stylized
 - Appreciation of nature
 - Joy of life themes + celebrate religion
- The creation of the caste system is credited to the religious texts of the Vedic age
- The Indian emperor Chandragupta was the greatest, best known Mauryan leader

I. Caste

A.Divine Social Order

B. Social Class

II. Impact of Caste on E.L

III. Technological Advances

A.Steel- Helped invent tools for agriculture and weapons

B. Textiles- luxurious **Purpose:** Trade

- Most manufacturing was done by artisans who formed groups and sold them at shops.

Medicine/Chemistry: solves the problem of illnesses and allows workers to continue work despite the bruises received from work.

Zero- Merchant economy, served as a median for negative and positive numbers when it came to lending money.

IV. Hinduism and Buddhism supporting a merchant economy

Indian Influence

- No previous civilization had developed in southeast Asia to compete with Indian influence.
- Did not attempt political domination
- India's influence had affected China, through Buddhism and art

China and India

Differences

- The restraint of Chinese art and poetry revealed the diversity generated during the classical age.
- India ultimately settled on a primary religion, though with minority expressions, that embodied diverse impulses within it.
- China chose for separate religions and philosophical systems that would serve different needs.
- Indian caste system involved a social rigidity considerably greater than that of China.
- India's cultural emphasis was more otherworldly than that of China.
- In science, Chinese placed greater stress on purely practical finding- Indians ventured further into mathematical arena.
- Differed in more than religion, philosophy, art and politics. Ordinary people had cultures along with elites. Hindu peasants saw their world differently from their Chinese counterparts. Placed less emphasis on personal emotional restraints and detailed etiquette; they expected different emotional interactions with family members.

- Indian peasants were less constrained than were the Chinese by recurrent efforts by large landlords to gain control of their land.
- The system of village control of most land was more firmly entrenched than in China.
- Indian merchants played a greater role than Chinese counterparts: there was more sea trade, more commercial vitality.
- India's expanding cultural influence was due to merchant activity, where Chinese expansion involved government initiatives in gaining new territory and sending emissaries to satellite states.

Similarities

- As agricultural societies, both relied on a large peasant class
- Organized in close villages with much mutual cooperation
- Cities and merchant activity, played a secondary role
- Political power rested on those who controlled land, through their ability to own large estates and the ability to tax the peasant class.

Hinduism fostering a merchant economy

- Merchants worked to the best of their ability to raise their status in the caste system.

Buddhism fostering a merchant economy

- Merchants had trade routes, Buddhists gave hospitality to the

Caste System- Everyone has a role, makes everything run smoothly and motivated everyone to work to the best of their ability.

India's Political Structure- Regionalism

China's Political Structure- Centralized Government, Bureaucracy

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the Vedic and Epic age the Aryan conquerors influenced Indian society • The dynasty that followed the Maurya, the Gupta featured a long era of political stability |
|--|