

Topics - Vedic Age, Later Vedic Age, Geographical Prospect, Social, Economical and Religious Aspect, Religious Revolution.

Vedic age - (1500 - 600 BC)

Rig Vedic Period (1500 - 1000 BC)
Geographical Aspect

1. Original home controversy -

The various scholars had suggested original home theory according to their own understanding.

Max Muller — Central Asia

Swami Dayanand Saraswati — Tibet.

Mayoor — Pamir Plateau

Lokmanya Tilak — Arctic Region.

When aryanas came they settled in upper part of Indus and they called it Sapta Saindhav. They called the Himalaya area mountain of this area Munjavant.

New River

Old name

Satluj	—	Sutudri
Ravi	—	Parushni
Chenab	—	Askini
Jhelum	—	Vitasta
Beas	—	Nipasa
Gomal	—	Gomati
Kabul	—	Kubha
Ghagghar	—	Drishdvati

Gandak - Sadanira
Swat - Suvastu.

Political Aspect

- Their political system ~~was~~ tribal in nature. mean tribal chief was one among equal. The basic unit of administration was Grama.
- The head of Grama was called Gramini.
- The Many grama make one Visha and its head was called vishapati.
- Many visha make one Jana, the head of Jana was called Janapati or Rajan.
- For cattle resource gramas used to have conflict and it was called Sangram.
- There were three political institution during rigvedic period to control the power of tribal chief.

(i) **Vidatha** - The earliest political institution of Aryans. It was an assembly of common people.

(ii) **Sabha** - An assembly of elders, elite and intellectuals. It was considered higher comparison to Samiti.

(iii) **Samiti** - It was an assembly of representative of common people. The chairman of Samiti was called Ishaan.

Social Aspect ⇒

- The basic unit of society was family (Kul) and its head was called Kulepa or Kulapati.
- The basic identity of the family was decided on the basis of Gautha.
 - Arayas basically patriarchal in nature. (because most of their god were male and they do religious for shake of son).
 - Rigveda Purush Sukta, 10th Mandals discuss about varn system. based on profession.
 - In Rigveda there is no mention of child marriage (no marriage before attaining puberty). There are also some evidences of widow remarriage.
 - There was no evidence of Parda system.
 - Married couple used to have gifts. It was called Vahatu.
 - Women were allowed to participate in Sabha & Samiti.

Economic Aspect ⇒

- The main profession was pastoralism and limited agriculture.
- Agricultural land was called Uravara. some time it is also called Keshka.
- Pasture land was called Garayti.
- The main mode of exchange was cow.
- There was no organised taxation system. The tribal member used to give voluntary tax and it was called Bali.
- Evidence of use of valuable metals called Nishka. and sometime it was also used for mode of exchange.

→ The most commercial animal was horse and cow.

Religious Aspect →

> Aryans believed in one god but its different form.

> They were worshiped nature.

> The most important god is Indra and Agni.

R̥g̥ vedic God divided in three

Sky God: Surya, Varun, Mitra, Pushan, Ashwin
USHA, (God of animals)

Space God: Indra, Rudra, Maruta, Vayu, Parjanya,
Earth, (God of rain)

Terrestrial God: Agni, Vanaspati, Soma, Prithvi, etc

Later Vedic Period (1000 - 600 BC)

* Geographical Aspects

In 1000 BC discovery of iron, after this Aryans started toward ganga valley. Iron made access help them to clear forest, increase in number of agriculture field (Alluvial soil) during this period they came interaction of non-aryan initially it lead to conflict but with passage of time this area was Aryanised. It is called the second Aryanisation.

Political Aspect of Late Vedic Period

1. The tribal chief was no more one among equal, he got divine power. He established strong bureaucracy and judicial system and standing army.
2. The ministers were called Ratnis.
3. There were four kind of yagya.
 - (i) Ashwamedha Yagya → It was related to territorial expansion of the king.
 - (ii) Rajasuya Yagya → It was done during the time of coronation of king.
 - (iii) Vajpeya Yagya → It was a yag related to horse chariot race. It was political in nature.
 - (iv) Agnistoma Yagya → It was a yag related to Somras and animal sacrifices.

* Social Aspects

- The profession based varna system was turned into birth base.
- Women and Sudra were not allowed to do Upanayan (Divija)² Sanskar.
Second birth
- This was a period between interaction of arya and non arya because of this interaction new community emerge like Chandalas.

- Because of increase in religious practice the position of brahmanas dominating, now they were considered as a mediator b/w man and god.
- From later vedic period culture of Varnashram started.
- During this time some professional community started emerging like iron smith, chariater, masonary etc.
- Because Aryans also started doing trade their social standard expands to south.
- Women are not allowed to join Sabha.

Economical Aspects -

- Their main profession was agriculture. Some important crop grown by them are rice (Brihi), Barley (Java), durit.
- During this period arians also started pottery (red in colour).
- Aryans also have organised taxation.
- Some evidences of some craftsmanship is visible during later vedic period.
- The head of trade community was called Shreshthin.
- Aryans were not consider the interest earning good.
- In this period they also started following barter system.
- Some evidence of silver metal called Shatman.

Religious Aspects -

- Aryans were no more nature worshiper. They started worshipping god.
- Indra is no more the chief god. Now the chief God is Prajapati (creator of universe, Brahma).

- They started worship shiva, Vishnu, Durga.
- Pushan which was god of animal in rigvedic period, now god of Shudras.

Shaddarshan

Philosophy

Compiler.

1. Sankhya	-	Kapil muni
2. Yoga	-	Patanjali
3. Nyaya	-	Gautam
4. Parva Mimansa	-	Jaimini
5. Uttara Mimansa	-	Badrayan
6. Vaisheshika	-	Kannad / Ulluk
7. Charavaka	-	Brihaspati

Question 1 → Analysis the differences and similarities between Indus valley and vedic culture. write

Q2 Write a short notes on democratic element in the political system of early vedic period.

Q3. Give an account of the geography of the vedic text and described the social life during vedic times.

Q4. Examine the contribution of vedic culture in the sphere of social institution and religion. Was there any continuity between the Indus and the vedic culture in this respect?