

Indian History Contemporaneous to World History

Basit Ahmad Ganie

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Ancient Period (c. 3000 BCE - 500 CE)

1. Indus Valley Civilization (c. 2500 - 1900 BCE)

Contemporary to **Mesopotamian (Sumerian)** and **Ancient Egyptian Civilizations**. While cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro flourished with advanced urban planning, Mesopotamia was developing early forms of writing (cuneiform), and Egypt was constructing the pyramids.

2. Vedic Period (c. 1500 - 600 BCE)

Contemporary to **Greek Mycenaean Civilization** and the **Babylonian Empire**. While the Vedic texts were being composed, other cultures like the Greeks were transitioning into their Dark Age following the collapse of the Mycenaean civilization.

3. Mauryan Empire (c. 322 - 185 BCE)

Contemporary to the rise of **Classical Greece**, **Alexander the Great's Empire**, and the **Roman Republic**. Chandragupta Maurya's establishment of the Mauryan Empire coincided with the campaigns of Alexander. Ashoka's reign (c. 268 - 232 BCE) saw the spread of Buddhism, while Rome was expanding its republic.

Classical Period (c. 500 CE - 1200 CE)

4. Gupta Empire (c. 320 - 550 CE)

Contemporary to the **Roman Empire's decline**, the rise of **Byzantium**, and the spread of **Christianity**. This was the Golden Age of India with advancements in arts, science, and mathematics (e.g., Aryabhata's work on zero and astronomy). Meanwhile, the Roman Empire fell in 476 CE, leading to the start of the Middle Ages in Europe.

5. Harsha's Empire (606 - 647 CE)

Contemporary to the **Tang Dynasty** in China and the early **Islamic Caliphates**. While Harsha ruled much of northern India, Tang China was flourishing, and the Islamic world was expanding under the Rashidun and Umayyad Caliphates.

Medieval Period (c. 1200 - 1700 CE)

6. Delhi Sultanate (1206 - 1526 CE)

Contemporary to the **Crusades** and the rise of the **Mongol Empire**. The Delhi Sultanate saw repeated Mongol invasions and established Muslim rule in northern India. At the same time, Europe was dealing with the Crusades, and Genghis Khan's Mongol Empire was spreading across Asia and Europe.

7. Vijayanagara Empire (c. 1336 - 1646 CE)

Contemporary to the **Renaissance in Europe** and the **Ottoman Empire**. The Vijayanagara Empire thrived in South India, while Europe was experiencing the Renaissance (artistic, scientific, and cultural revival). The Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople in 1453, signaling the end of the Byzantine Empire.

8. Mughal Empire (1526 - 1857 CE)

Contemporary to the **Age of Exploration**, the **Renaissance**, and the **Industrial Revolution**. The Mughal Empire's peak under Akbar (r. 1556–1605) and Shah Jahan (r. 1628–1658) coincided with the rise of the Spanish and Portuguese Empires, the colonization of the Americas, and the spread of the European Renaissance. By the time Aurangzeb's reign ended in 1707, Europe was beginning to undergo the Industrial Revolution.

Modern Period (c. 1700 CE - 1947 CE)

9. British Colonial Period (1757 - 1947 CE)

Contemporary to the **American Revolution**, **French Revolution**, **World Wars**, and the **rise of industrial capitalism**. The British Empire began its colonial control in India following the Battle of Plassey (1757), leading to nearly two centuries of rule. During this period, the world saw the American and French revolutions, the Napoleonic Wars, and the two World Wars. The Indian independence movement, led by figures like Mahatma Gandhi, developed alongside the global decolonization movements following World War II.

Post-Independence (1947 - Present)

10. Republic of India

Contemporary to the **Cold War**, **globalization**, and **emerging technologies**. Since gaining independence in 1947, India has grown into a major player on the world stage. It aligned with neither the U.S. nor the Soviet Union during the Cold War but played a key role in the Non-Aligned Movement. In the post-Cold War world, India has become a significant economic and technological power.

Key Global Parallels

- **Cultural Interactions:** India had extensive trade and cultural exchanges with Southeast Asia, the Islamic world, and Europe during both the classical and medieval periods. - **Colonial Struggles:** The Indian independence movement was part of a broader wave of anti-colonial struggles in Africa, Asia, and Latin America in the 20th century.