**Bangladesh Studies:**

History is the study of past events. History is based on sources.

**Major school of thoughts:**

* **Nationalist Historiography:**In that nationalist approach the historians wrote history to motivate and inspired patriotic feeling to the mass people in India and Bangladesh**.  Example: The Revolt of 1857’ renamed as the first ‘Indian War of Independence’; Siraj ud Daula: A hero?**
* **Marxist Historiography:**It also known as Historical Materialism.  Example: Karl MARX.
* **Subaltern Historiography:**Subaltern Historiography focuses more on what happens among the masses at the base levels of society than among the elite.
* **Cambridge / British Historiography:**Justification for the continuance of British rule.

**Periodization of the History of Bangladesh:**

***Mainly three categories:***

* **Ancient Bengal (upto 1204)**
* **Medieval Bengal (1204-1757)**
* **Modern Bengal (1757- )**

**Two types of sources:**

1. **Archaeological sources: Archaeological sources include: Inscriptions**

**Ruins of cities, Monasteries, Sculptures, Terracotta plaques, other terracotta objects, and pottery .**

**Some archaeological sites in Bangladesh are:**

* **Mahasthangarh**
* **Paharpur**
* **Mainamoti**
* **Somapura vihara and the like.**

1. **Literary sources : Literature  a) *Vedas, Mahabharata and Ramayana***
2. **b) Kautilya’s *Arthasastro: Written in 3rd century BC***

1. **c) Kalahan’s *Rajatarangini***

**Overseas Account : Literature**

* **Fa-Hien (399 AD)**
* **Hiuen- Tsang (c 630-638 AD)**
* **Ibn Batuta (1338-1349 AD)**
* **Lama Taranath (c 1608 AD)**

**Fairy tales/Hearsay/Strories**

**How did we get the Name Bangladesh ?**

**Earliest References to Bengal :**

1. **Bangladesh**
2. **Bangla**
3. **Bengal**
4. **Bengala**
5. **Bangala**
6. **Vanga**
7. **Vangal**

     Names of same geographical location as of present Bangladesh

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**Indus civilization**

The Indus valley civilization was one of the world’s first great urban civilizations. It flourished in the vast Indus river, in what are now parts of Afghanistan, Pakistan and north- western India.

Beginning Around five thousand years ago, an important civilization developed on the Indus River floodplain named the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) which was a Bronze Age Civilization (3300-1300 BCE; mature period 2600-1900 BCE).

**Discovery and Excavation** ::

 Indus Valley was first described in 1842 by Charles Masson in his ’’Narrative of Various Journeys in Balochistan, Afghanistan, and the Punjab”, where locals talked of an ancient city.

 In 1872–75 Alexander Cunningham published the first Harappan seal (with an erroneous identification as Brahmi letters). □ Finally, an excavation campaign was started under Sir John Hubert Marshall in 1921– 22.

Culture of Indus Valley Civilization Religion § Some Indus valley seals show swastikas, which are found in other religions worldwide, especially in Indian religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. §

. § Shiva lingam have been found in the Harappan remains.

•  Culture of Indus Valley Civilization(cont.) Writing System Between 400 and as many as 600 distinct Indus symbols have been found on seals, small tablets, ceramic pots and more than a dozen other materials, including a "signboard" that apparently once hung over the gate of the inner citadel of the Indus city of Dholavira.

**Trade and transportation** § The Indus civilization's economy appears to have depended significantly on trade,

 § The IVC may have been the first civililzation to use wheeled transport.

 § They have been used boat and sea-going craft for transportation. § During the Early Harappan period, similarities in pottery, seals, figurines, ornaments, etc. document intensive caravan trade with Central Asia and the Iranian plateau.

Arts and Crafts § Various sculptures, seals, pottery, gold jewelry, and anatomically detailed figurines in terracotta, bronze, and steatite have been found at excavation sites. § A number of gold, terra- cotta and stone figurines of girls in dancing poses. These terra-cotta figurines included cows, bears, monkeys, and dogs.

•

**Achievements Carefully Planned Cities** § The cities of the Indus Valley Civilization were well-organised and solidly built out of brick and stone. § Their drainage systems, wells and water storage systems were the most sophisticated in the ancient world.

•  Achievements(cont.) Science & Technology § The people of the Indus Civilization achieved great accuracy in measuring length, mass, and time. § They were among the first to develop a system of uniform weights and measures. § Harappans evolved some new techniques in metallurgy and **produced copper, bronze, lead, and tin. § The engineering skill of the Harappans was remarkable, especially in building docks.**

•  Achievements(cont.) Writing Skill Government □ The people of the Indus Valley Civilization also developed a writing system which was used for several hundred year

 There was no single ruler but several: Mohenjo-daro had a separate ruler, Harappa another, and so forth.

 Harappa society had no ruler, everybody enjoyed equal status.

Effects on Human Civilization

 The Indus Valley Civilization may have been the first civililzation to use wheeled transport. These advances may have included bullock carts that are identical to those seen throughout South Asian teritory today, as well as boats. □ Their well organized urbanization system make an effects on next civilization. □ Some of the crafts which were found in Harappa civilization are still practised in the subcontinent today.

•  Decline of Indus Valley Civilization The Indus Valley civilization was declined at late 1900 BC. There are various theory for describe of destruction of this civilization. Some are given briefly: § The Aryan Invasion Theory Many scholars gave a theories that an invasion of the Aryans into the subcontinent was the cause of this dispersal. But there is currently no historical or archaeological record which shows that the Aryan people ever invaded the region.

• Decline of Indus Valley Civilization(cont.) □ The Evidence Of Natural Disaster The most common held theory used to explain the decline of the Harrapan culture is that climatic changes lead to a long term drought. This environmental disaster, coupled with repeated floods that devastated the arable land. § The Possibility Of An Ancient Tsunami Some geophysicists have begun to theorize that such a disaster could have been responsible for the end of Harrapan civilization. This theory is based upon the premise that a massive wave could have reached inland, traveling up the Indus and Saraswati Rivers simultaneously. § The Saraswati River Runs Dry The geological record does show that the Saraswati River, one of the main arteries of trade for the Harrapans, dried up completely sometime during the early 20th century B.C.E.

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  Bangladesh Studies:

Lecture-02

Aryan Civilization:

* Around 1500 BCE, a group of nomadic warrior-herders crossed the narrow **Khyber Pass**in the Hindu Kush Mountains and invaded the Indus Valley culture. These people, the **Aryans**, came from Eastern Europe between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, probably THEY WERE looking for their animals.  Flooding and earthquakes had weakened the Indus Valley culture and they were unable to withstand the newcomers.
* The Aryans learned to use iron after their invasion of India.
* Iron was uses to make plows which made farming much easier.
* Soon cities ruled by chiefs called **Rajahs** arose
* By 500 B.C., the **Aryans** had built a new Indian civilization
* The Aryans brought with them their own language, called **Sanskrit** and religious and cultural beliefs.  The Indus Valley people eventually became intermixed with the Aryan people and the two cultures together make up what is now much of the culture of modern India.  Hinduism, the major religion of India, was a mixture of Aryan and Indus Valley beliefs.  The **caste system**, which keeps people in strict social classes, was brought to India by the Aryans.
* **Hinduism** is derived from the Persian word “Hind” for “inhabitant of India”.
* Hinduism is composed of many different groups and has no well-defined organization.

Hindu **Trinity:**

* **Brahma** - the Creator
* **Vishnu** - the Preserver
* **Shiva** - the Destroyer
* Three aspects/powers of the same divine being
* trinity

Central to Hinduism is the belief in **reincarnation.** Hindus believe that after a person dies, they will be re-born as some other creature or thing.  What you are re-born as depends on your **“Karma”**or the deeds you did in your previous life.

**Caste System:**

The Maurya Empire:

* **Chandragupta Maurya**captured the capital of Magadha in 321 BCE and Maurya was installed as king, founding the Maurya Empire, India’s first.
* Chandragupta Maurya expanded the Maurya Empire north and west during his reign.
* Chandragupta Maurya was succeed by his son Bindusara in 298 BCE, and then by Bindusara's son **Ashoka the Great**in 272 BCE.
* Under Ashoka the Great, the Maurya Empire expanded into the southern part of the Indian subcontinent.
* Ashoka erected (established) the **Edicts of Ashoka**, which state his policies and accomplishments, and which were written in both Greek and Sanskrit.

**Ashoka:**

After fighting a bloody battle, he sickened of war and turned his life in a different direction.  He became a **Buddhist,** or someone who followed the teachings of Buddha. He lived peacefully and built roads for travelers, planted trees to give shade, constructed rest houses and dug wells.  He considered all his subjects his children and tried to care for them with love and kindness. He built a road system and every nine miles he had wells dug and rest houses built. This allowed travelers to stop and refresh themselves.  Many people became Buddhist after Ashoka’s example.

**The Gupta Empire:**

**Golden Age in India 320-550 C.E**

* **Chandra Gupta**established India’s second empire, the **Gupta Empire, which oversaw a great flowering of Indian civilization, especially Hindu culture.**
* **Chandragupta II**promoted the synthesis of science, art, philosophy, and religion in part because his court contained the Navartna (or the Nine  Jewels), a group of nine scholars who produced advancements in many academic fields.
* He also conquered the whole Indian subcontinent, including the **Tamil** people of middle India whose society was one of the few **matriarchal**societies in ancient times.

**Contributions:**

* Many advances in science, medicine, astronomy, and mathematics came out of India.  This is a depiction of an ancient Indian book that predicts eclipses of the sun and moon.
* India had many advances in medicine.  One doctor from Ancient India wrote a book on how he rebuilt noses through plastic surgery.  He no doubt needed to do this often since having one’s nose cut off was one of the punishments for committing a crime.

Gupta Social Order:

* Guptas, despite tolerance, were profoundly conservative in social questions.
* Upheld caste system.
* Peasants forced to stay on their land.  No mobility.
* Emphasis on harmony and balance.
* Ex. Kalidasa: love follows caste lines
* Economic complexity à sub-castes, or ***jati***, based on occupation.
* Connected: rise of ***guilds***, organizations which supervise an industry’s wages and prices, provide welfare for needy members and families.

Economy:

* Gupta kings empower merchant *vaisya* caste
* Elaborate coinage system developed.
* Trade expands.  Flourishing trade with Rome, China, Arabian world.
* In many cities marketplaces surge.
* BUT still essentially an agricultural economy
* **Feudal pattern** begins as kings make land grants to Brahmins.  After Gupta period, these land grants are increasingly made to Kshatriya or warrior caste.
* Advances in agriculture: iron permits clearing of Ganges River valley for farming.
* **Pala Dynasty:**

* Gopala founded the dynasty in 750 AD.
* He was a chieftain or military general who was elected as king by notable men of the area to prevent anarchy.

 Rulers

Gopala (Reign: 750 – 770 AD)

* First Pala king and founder of the dynasty.
* Son of Vapyata, a warrior.
* Was elected by a group of people.
* At the time of his death, Pala kingdom included Bengal and most of Bihar.
* He built the monastery at Odantapuri, Bihar.
* **Considered the first Buddhist king of Bengal**.

Dharmapala (Reign: 770 – 810 AD)

* Son and successor of Gopala.
* Expanded the kingdom.
* Was a pious Buddhist.
* Founded the Vikramshila University at Bhagalpur, Bihar.
* He had frequent wars with the Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas.
* **The Palas became the most powerful kingdom in northern and eastern India during his rule.**

Devapala (Reign: 810 – 850 AD)

* Son of Dharmapala and Rannadevi, a Rashtrakuta princess.
* Extended the kingdom to Assam, Odisha and Kamarupa.
* Was a staunch Buddhist and built many monasteries and temples in Magadha.
* Defeated the Rashtrakuta ruler Amoghavarsha.

Mahipala I

* Ascended the throne in 988 AD.
* Recovered northern and eastern Bengal.
* Also took Bihar.

Ramapala

* The last strong Pala king.
* The kingdom disintegrated during his son Kumarapala’s reign.

Madanapala (Reign: 1144 – 1162 AD)

* The last Pala king.
* After him, the Sena dynasty replaced the Palas.

Legacy of the Pala Dynasty

* The Pala Empire was dethroned by the Hindu Sena dynasty in the 12th century.
* The Pala period is also known as a ‘Golden Era’ in Bengali history.
* They built magnificent monasteries and temples: Somapura Mahavihara (in Bangladesh), Odantapuri Monastery.
* They also patronised Buddhist centres of learning like Nalanda University and the Vikramshila University.
* During this time, the Bengali language developed. The first Bengali literary work Charyapada is attributed to this period. It was written in an Abahatta (the common ancestor of Bengali, Assamese, Odia and Maithili.
* Many Buddhist teachers from the Pala kingdom travelled to Southeast Asia to spread the faith. Atisha preached in Sumatra and Tibet.
* Sanskrit scholars were also patronised by the Pala kings. Gaudapada composed Agama Shastra during the time of the Palas.
* The Pala art (art seen in Bengal and Bihar during the Pala regime) influence is seen in the art of Nepal, Sri Lanka, Burma and Java.
* **Sena Dynasty (1097-1225)**
* -- Founder Vijayasena defeating Palas.5 generation of kings e.g.,Vallalsena, Laksmansena
* -- Sanskrit literature (Gitagovinda by Joydeb)
* -- Caste system by Vallalsena.
* -- Religious intolerance,Hindu orthodoxy, decline of Buddhism
* **Dynasties of Southeastern Bengal**
* -- Maintained separate political entity despite attempts to intrusion.
* -- Bhadra, Khadga dynasties existed in 7th century.
* -- Deva dynasty was established in Mainamati-Lalmai area in 8th century.
* -- Harikela was ruled by Chandra rulers in 9th century, evidence of sea trade, boat building etc found

Sena Rulers:

* [Hemanta Sen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemanta_Sen) (c. 1070–1096 AD)
* [Vijay Sen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vijay_Sen) (c. 1096–1159 AD)
* [Ballal Sen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballal_Sen) (c. 1159–1179 AD)
* [Lakshman Sen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lakshman_Sen) (c. 1179–1206 AD)
* [Vishwarup Sen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vishwarup_Sen) (c. 1206–1225 AD)
* [Keshab Sen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keshab_Sen) (c. 1225–1230 AD)
* **What were the achievements of the Pala dynasty and the Sena dynasty in Bengal?**
* Achievements of Pala Dynasty:
* 1. In this period only, feudal economy introduced, where trade declined and agro economy flourished.
* 2. Minerals played a major role in uplifting the economy.
* 3. They have monarchial administration and so, the society was very peaceful during those  period.
* 4. They followed Buddhism and Hinduism as their major religion.
* 5. Art and Architecture were encouraged with the help of "Palal school of Sculptural Art".
* 6.They had done great works like Vikramshila Vihar, Odantpuri Vihar, Jagaddal Vihar.
* 7. They used Proto-Bengal Language for their communication.
* 8. The Pala Rulers were very much interested in Buddhist art, literature and learning.
* 9. Bengali art, literature and paintings flourished during this period.
* **Achievements of Sena Dynasty:**
* 1. Sena dynasty was found in 11th century.
* 2. This Sena dynasty was founded by Hemanta Sen
* 3. Independent rule of Sena's in Bengal was established by his son in Vijayasena's time.
* 4. So, Vijayasena is called as real founder of Sena Dynasty.
* 5. He captured the Rarh Region of Bengal from Palas and some parts of Gauda Kingdom from Assam Regions.
* 6. His son Ballala Sena introduced social reforms in Bengal which is known as Kulinism.
* 7. Balasena was succeeded by Lakshmanasena
* 8. They struggled with Palas and confined Bengal, Assam and Parts of Orissa.
* 9. Later, in 12th century, their territories were won by Deva dynasty.

1. What was the cultural influence of the Gupta empire?

The Gupta Dynasty promoted Hinduism, but supported Buddhist and Jain cultures as well. Gupta Buddhist art influenced East and Southeast Asia as trade between regions increased. The Gupta Empire became an important cultural center and influenced nearby kingdoms and regions in **Burma**, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia.

1. What are the characteristics of the Gupta empire?

**Gupta** rulers organized strong central government and promoted peace and prosperity; no death penalty in the court system. Power was left in the hands of villages and city governments. Chandragupta and Samudragupta used strong armies to expand the **empire**.

1. What new technology did Gupta India?

**Guptas**' scientists discovered that there were seven planets in the solar system. They also created the **technology** that was able to help them detect eclipses of the sun and moon. Arybhata was one of the most famous scientists in the **Gupta Empire**: He determined that Earth rotates on an axis and revolves around the sun.

1. Write about pala dynasty.

Gopala was the founder of the Pala dynasty. Gopala's son, Dharma Pala was a great Pala ruler. He established control over Bengal and Bihar.   
Dharma Palas son Devapala defeated many Rajput clans of Bihar and established control over them.   
Devapala established trade relations with some parts of south eastern Asia.The rulers after him were lacking wisdom and strength.   
The Pala kingdom was ruined after Devapala's death. Towards the end of the 12th century Muslim rulers conquered this territory.

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**QUESTIONS:**

* What is history? Discuss various school of thoughts of history with example.
* Discuss various sources of history.
* What are the achievements of Indus valley civilization?
* How did IVC declined from world history?
* Discuss Aryan civilization.
* Discuss caste system and reincarnation.
* What are the achievement of Gupta empire?
* Why gupta empire is known as golden age of India?
* Discuss the social economic and cultural influence of gupta empire.
* Discuss the legacy of pala dynasty.
* What are the achievements of pala and sena dynasty in Bengal
* Write about pala dynasty
* Who is King Ashoka?
* Discuss about Maurya dynasty.
* What are the basic differences between caste and class system?
* How did we get the Name Bangladesh ?

**Short Notes**

* **Hindu trinity**
* **Reincarnation**
* **Rulers of Sena dynasty**
* **Gautam Buddha**

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