

Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)



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The Harappan Civilization, also known as the Indus Valley Civilization, was a Bronze Age urban culture that flourished along the Indus River in present-day Pakistan, northwest

northeast Afghanistan from **3300 to 1300 BCE**. It is called Harappan civilization because this civilization **was discovered first in 1921 at the modern site of Harappa**.

Phases of IVC

- ◆ Early Harrapan- 3300–2600 BCE
- ◆ Mature Harappan- 2600–1900 BCE
- ◆ Late Harrapan phase- 1900–1300 BCE



Daya Ram Sahni



R D Banerji



John Marshall

IVC excavation

- ◆ **Harrapa (1921)** – Daya Ram Sahni
- ◆ **Mohenjo-Daro (1922)** – R. D. Banerji
- ◆ In 1924, **John Marshall** recognized the significance of the excavations, revealing India's ancient history.

Geographical Extent: The epicenter of the civilization was located in present-day Pakistan and northwestern India, from which it expanded in all directions. The area formed a triangular shape and covered approximately 1.3 million square kilometers.

(North) Manda (Jammu & Kashmir) (Chenab River)



(West) Sutkagen-Dor
(Dasht River, Makran coast, Baluchistan)

(East) Alamgirpur (Hindon River)
(Ganga-Yamuna doab of Uttar Pradesh)

(South) Daimabad (Maharashtra)
Pravara River tributaries of Godavari

Administration and Political Organization

- Although much of the political and administrative structure of the Indus Valley Civilization remains speculative due to the absence of deciphered written records, some aspects can be inferred from archaeological evidence.

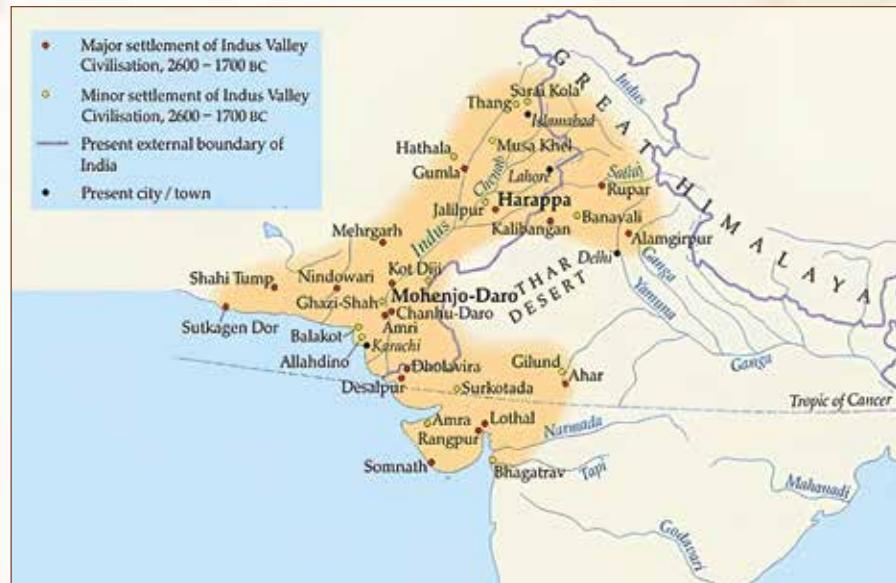
- The complexity of structures like the Great Bath, Granaries, and drainage system suggests strong centralized governance.

- The sophisticated economy and craftsmanship indicate leadership under a centralized authority, likely by a class of merchants.

- Raised Habitations: Centralized residential areas indicate the presence of important figures, possibly headmen and councils.

- Absence of Temples:** Unlike Egypt and Mesopotamia, no temples were found, suggesting Harappan rulers focused on commerce rather than conquests.

- Lack of Weapons:** Harappans lacked significant weapon-making, possibly reflecting a non-militaristic society.

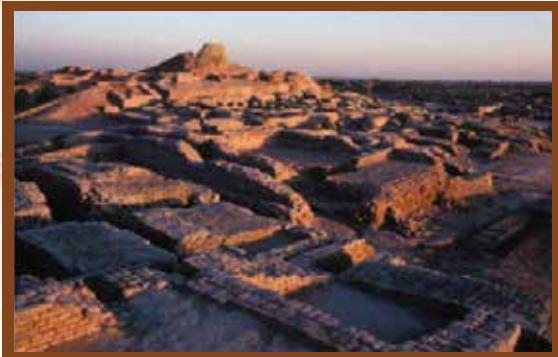


Town Planning and Structures

- ◆ **Unified Urban Design:** Harappan cities followed a consistent grid pattern with streets oriented north-south and east-west.
- ◆ **City Division:** Cities were divided into:
 - ◊ **Citadel:** Located on higher ground, housing administrative or ritual centers.
 - ◊ **Lower Town:** Residential areas, with distinct structures and layout.



(Harrapan road)



(Citadel Mohenjo-daro)

- ◆ **Examples of Settlements:**
 - ◊ **Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, and Kalibangan** had distinct citadel and lower town divisions
 - ◊ **Lothal:** A rectangular settlement with no internal division.
 - ◊ **Dholavira was divided into three parts, and each part was surrounded by massive stone walls, with entrances through gateways.**

◆ Building Materials:

- ◊ **Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro:** Used baked bricks with standardized sizes.
- ◊ **Kalibangan:** Utilized mud bricks.

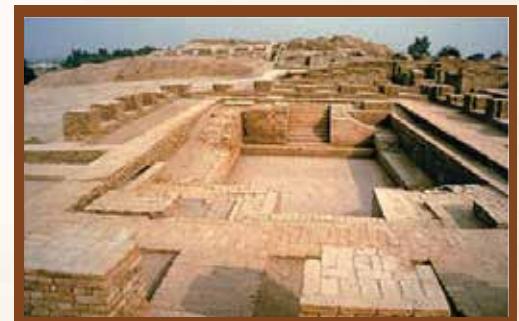
Notable Public Structures

◆ Great Bath (Mohenjo-Daro):

- ◊ A large tank surrounded by rooms for changing clothes.
- ◊ Built with burnt bricks.

◆ Granaries:

- ◊ The largest building in Mohenjo-Daro.
- ◊ Harappa had six granaries.
- ◊ Granaries were linked to grain storage and distribution.



(Great Bath Mohenjodaro)



Harappa granary

◆ **Threshing Floors:**

- ◊ Rows of circular brick platforms at Harappa for threshing grain (evidence of wheat and barley).

◆ **Barracks (Harappa):**

- ◊ Two-roomed structures, likely used to house laborers.

Drainage and Sanitation

◆ **Advanced Drainage System:**

- ◊ Mohenjo-Daro's drainage system was sophisticated, with street drains and manholes.

◆ **Private Sanitation:**

- ◊ Most houses had courtyards and bathrooms; Kalibangan homes had wells.

◆ **Health and Cleanliness:**

- ◊ Harappans prioritized hygiene, which was unmatched by other Bronze Age civilizations.



(Harappan drainage pattern)



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