

The governing system of Egyptian culture consisted of a pharaoh who was the absolute ruler of Egypt. The pharaoh was chosen through hereditary selection and not elected by the people. The pharaoh was both a political figure and an intermediary between the gods and the people of Egypt. Therefore, government and religious beliefs were closely tied together.

During the Vedic Period of Indian Culture, society was split into clans. Inside of each clan was a class system, or caste, and everyone belonged to a specific caste. The clan leader was elected by his clan. The different clans were constantly battling each other, and for this reason, their clan leader, or Raja, was chosen for his military prowess and not for religious reasons. This varies greatly from Egyptian society where the leader was simply handed his position for being born.

In the Zhou Dynasty, the feudal system was introduced. The king ruled over a network of lords and nobles. The nobles were given land in exchange for loyalty and service. The rulership was justified through something called: "The Mandate of Heaven." A ruler would claim they had received the Mandate of Heaven and could retain power if the people saw him as just and believed him to govern well. If he lost favor, it could cause rebellion and he could be overthrown. Someone new could then claim the Mandate of Heaven. In this way, the king was also tied to religious beliefs and ceremonies like the pharaoh in Egypt. The major difference is in the lack of receiving rulership through lineage.

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