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BUDDHISM: HISTORIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Keep Quit Start

KEEP THESE ANONYMOUS!

- Please write down:
- Something I should keep doing because it helps you learn
- Something I should quit doing because it is annoying or unhelpful in your learning
- Something I should start doing that would improve your learning
- If you do not come to class regularly, please tell me why!

Outline

Finish Life of the Buddha

Historical Development of
Buddhism

Buddhism in India, Sri Lanka,
China, Korea, Japan

Focus on

- Four Noble Truths
- Dependent Origination
- Bodhisattva
- Three Jewels
- Trikitaka and Pali Canon

The Buddha!

- One who has attained enlightenment (**nirvana**)
- Did so by fully understanding **Dependent Origination**
- A sophisticated theory of cause and effect
- Nothing in the world comes into existence by itself
- Everything is influenced by a chain or cycle of causation

The first Sermon

- Buddha shared his knowledge hoping it would bring others enlightenment
- Found his 5 ascetic friends and taught them in the deer park
- Contents of this teaching, the **four noble truths**



Four Noble Truths

- Not a universal essence of all Buddhists
- Rather a doctrinal foundation

Four Noble Truths

- Life is suffering
- There is a cause of suffering
- There is an end to suffering
- The end of suffering is the **noble eightfold path**

Life is suffering

- Realized by the Buddha during the first three sights
- In addition to aging, illness, and death, birth and rebirth are part of the cycle that keep people in samsara
- Suffering can mean encountering unpleasant things (often from **karma**)
- Or being separated from pleasant things
- People also suffer from ignorance of the nature of the self

There is a cause of suffering

- One cause is karma
- Others are craving and attachment
- Desiring earthly delights leads to attachment, but because of impermanence, earthly things do not last and will cause frustration, suffering, and grief

There is an end to suffering (hooray!)

- The end to suffering is nirvana which means “to extinguish”
- Synonymous with enlightenment
- Buddha attained nirvana and extinguished desire, ignorance, karma, and suffering



Nirvana

- Not that nirvana
- Two types
 - 1. nirvana with remainder (attained in life of Buddha)
 - 2. nirvana without remainder (pari-nirvana or final nirvana)

The end to suffering and the Noble Eightfold Path

- Eight right ways to live
- Provides basic moral compass
- Comprises the “middle way” between extreme self denial and extreme indulgence

- Right View
- Right Resolve
- Right Speech
- Right Conduct or Action
- Right Livelihood
- Right Effort
- Right Mindfulness
- Right Samadhi (state of meditative consciousness)

After the first sermon

- First sermon called “Setting in Motion the *Dharma* Wheel”
- Dharma refers to the teaching of the Buddha
- Buddha ordained followers as disciples, some of whom also became enlightened
- These enlightened followers are called **arhats**, they did not discover the dharma as the Buddha did, but rather they learned it
- The community around the Buddha called the **sangha**

Three Jewels

- The Buddha
- The Dharma (teachings)
- The Sangha (the community that preserves the dharma)
- Operates as a source of authority and protection for Buddhists

Death of the Buddha

- The Buddha returned to Kapilavastu and shared his wisdom
- Many members of his family became arhats including his wife, son, cousin, aunt, and stepmother
- The buddha traveled and taught for 45 years and died at age 80
- He entered pari-nirvana and was not born again into the world

History and Development

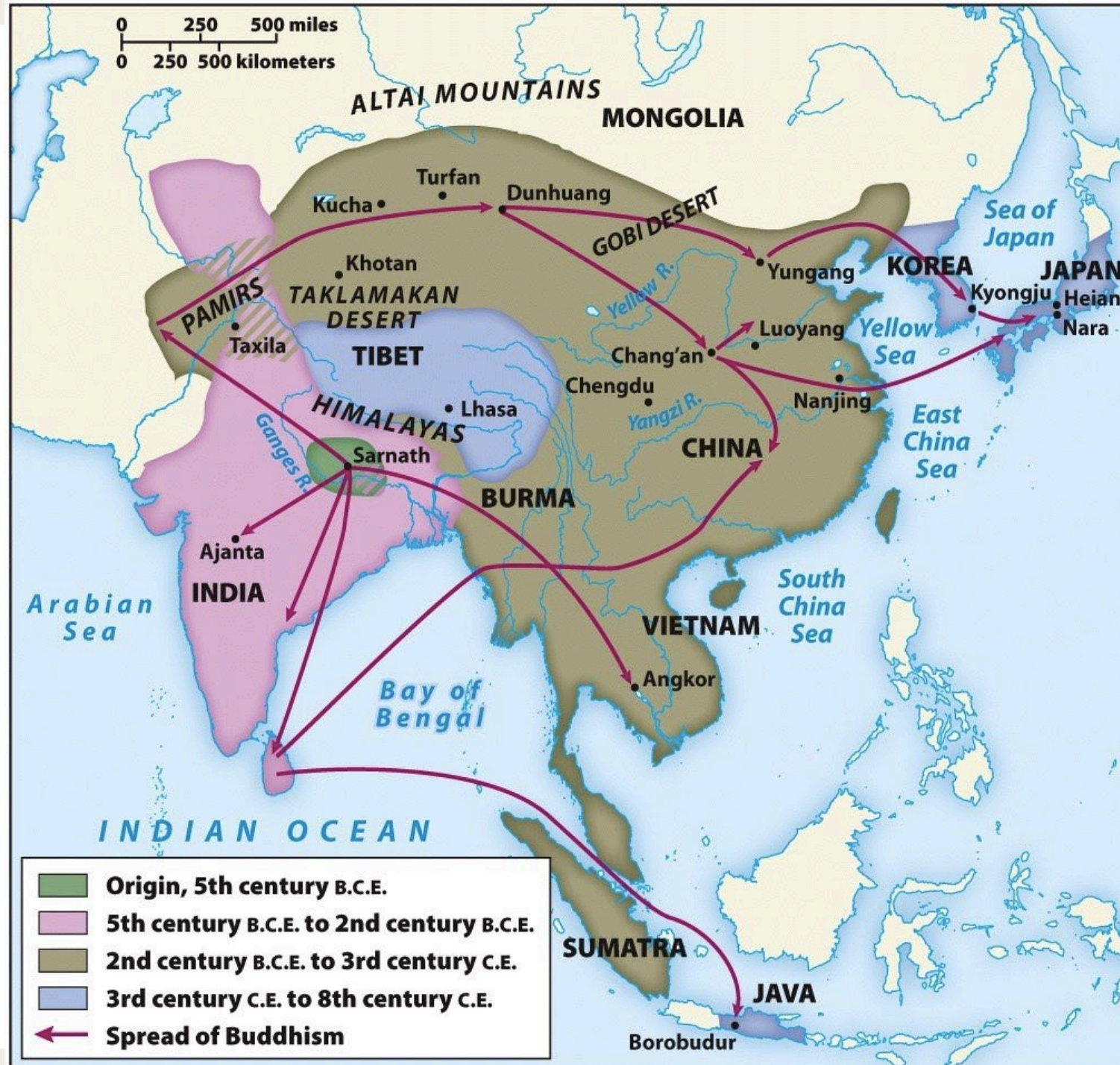
- Buddhism quickly spread through Northern India and was largely a movement of renunciates who were critical of existing religious practices
- Initially itinerant (nomadic)
- Eventually settled in monasteries and began composing Buddhist scriptures

Trikitaka

- Made up of three groups of texts
- ***Sutras***
 - *Discourses or sermons of the Buddha*
 - *Mythically recited from memory by arhat Ananda, the Buddha's cousin*
 - *Contain speeches of the Buddha*
- ***Vinaya***
 - *Disciplinary codes for monks and nuns*
- ***Abhidharma***
 - *Philosophical texts*

Tripitaka

- Earliest and most complete version the **Pali Canon**
(written in Pali language)
- Dates to first century BCE

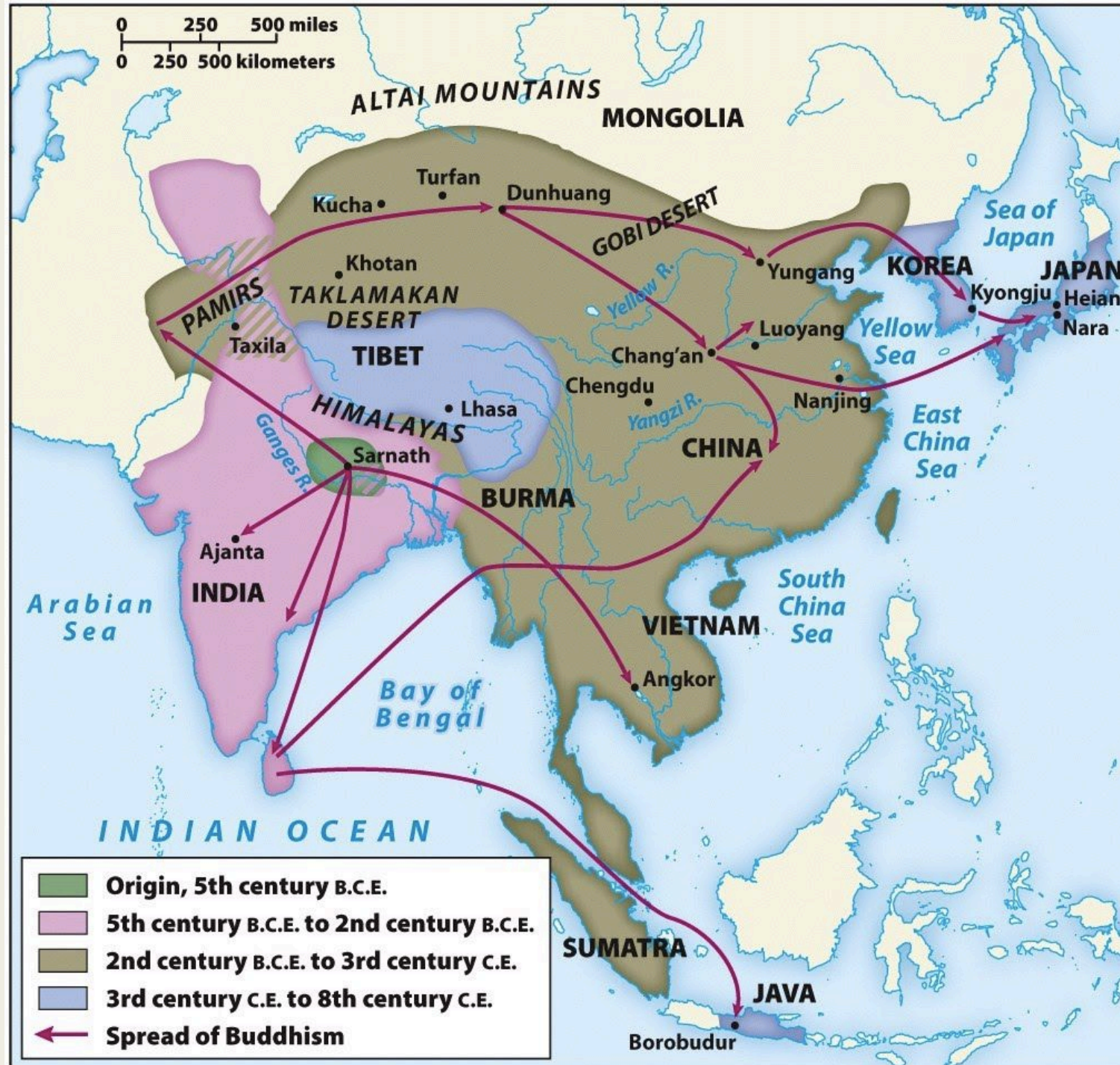


Spread and emergence of Buddhisms

- Sangha eventually splintered
- Originally 18 schools of Indian Buddhism
- **Theravada** Buddhism is the only one that remains

Theravada Buddhism

- Based on Pali Canon
- Likely established in Sri Lanka in 3rd century BCE
- Became and remains dominant form of Buddhist in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia
- Means School of the Elders
- Treats Buddha as a human person, not a god
- He was the only Buddha in the present world, though past and future Buddhas are acknowledged
- **Arhats** are highest authority after the Buddha



Mahayana Buddhism

- C. 1st century BCE new sutras began appearing claiming advanced teachings of the Buddha
- Contained new and innovative interpretations of the dharma
- Described as “second turning of the dharma wheel”
- Claimed by new movement of Indian Buddhists, “Mahayana” or “Great Vehicle”
- They labelled mainstream forms of Buddhism “Hinayana” or “Lesser Vehicle”

Mahayana Buddhism con't

- Theravada Buddhists questioned and rejected Mahayana Buddhism, but Mahayana became dominant form of Buddhism in East Asia
- China, Korea, Japan
- Mahayana has many distinct characteristics, but four are central

Distinct to Mahayana

1. Adherents aspire to become bodhisattvas
 - Consider enlightenment attained by arhats inferior to bodhisattva
2. Cosmology proposed an infinite universe with many heavenly worlds inhabited by countless buddhas and bodhisattvas
3. Shakyamuni not just a human who attained enlightenment, but a transcendent buddha in the expanded universe
4. Propose that all phenomena lack an inherent nature of their own due to Dependent Origination