

# Annales History



Introduction to History

HSS343a

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# Foundation

- Academic Origin
- Only Political History is insufficient to understand the past
- Archives cannot be confined to old documents and texts
- History has to be based on facts
  - But these should cover all aspects of life
- Inductive method



Quantitative  
Comparative

Total  
HISTORY

# Annales: Academic Origin

- Dissatisfaction with
  - Rankean, Positivist History
  - Story of European Progress
- History is more than past political events
- Political events themselves are based on other factors
- How do we study the past of non-political events and processes
  - Economic and Social aspects
- *Annales d'histoire économique et sociale*, Annales of Economic and Social History (1929)
- Marc Bloch and Lucien Febvre

# Total History

- History has to study all aspects of human life in the past
- How people lived and in what shelters,
- What they grew and collected,
- What food they ate,
- What clothes they wore,
- How they produced and traded,
- What social hierarchies were there; who did what and why,
- Art, Culture, Ways of Life, Beliefs, ...
- The non-human world : how it influenced the human world and how humans changed it



# New Sources

- History had to be written based on sources which told us about all these new things the historian has to study
- Go beyond official documents of state and church
- Trade statistics
- Agriculture statistics
- Geography markers and natural remains
- Oral and Visual records

EVERYTHING CAN BE A SOURCE OF HISTORICAL RECORD

- Historian needs to collect all the data available
- Corroborate it, clean it, collate it, classify it
- Find patterns which go beyond the immediate
- Long periods of time: decades or even centuries
- Large, clearly demarcated regions
- Bring statistical and other scientific tools / methods to the study of historical data
- Quantify historical events and processes

INDUCTIVE METHOD

## Quantitative History

- Comparative method is central to study of History
- To study one historical phenomenon it is illuminating to study in comparison to another historical phenomenon which is at once similar yet different
- This allows us to identify both what is common and what is unique in a particular historical phenomenon
- It allows us to evaluate what is of historical importance and what is not
- All historical enquiry has to be comparative, if it has to tell us something useful

## Comparative History



# Importance of Geography

- Human actions take place in a natural setting: geography
- Rivers, Mountains, Snow, Rain, Forests, Meadows
  - Limiting conditions; Enabling conditions to what humans can do
  - The Mediterranean; The Alps
- Climate
- Natural Limits and Human Society
- Frontiers and States
- Human interaction with their geography makes for historical regions
  - Historical regions are the proper area of study





# Three Rhythms of Time

- Fernand Braudel proposed that historical time was ideally viewed as the amalgamation of three distinct rhythms of time
    - Time of Structure; or Geographical Time
    - Time of Conjuncture; or Social-Economic Time
    - Time of Events; or Political Time
1. First historian has to establish geographical time: base/foundation
  2. On the basis of geographical time, historians need to establish social-economic trends
  3. Only after this can historians study events, or political history
    - Without 1 and 2 having been established, 3 makes no sense
    - The structural and conjunctural time rhythms are the “longue durée”

# *Longue Durée*

- Long duration
  - Historical periods which stretch over centuries; often millennia
- Changes in the longue durée are imperceptible but also very stable
- Historians have neglected it, historical methods do not encourage studying it
- But central to the understanding and explanation of the past
- Proper historical accounts have to base themselves on a description of the longue durée



# *Histoire Des Mentalités*

- Mental Architecture
  - How the categories of time, space, emotions, feelings, attitudes are organized inside our minds
- World View, Weltanschauung
- How we **experience** our lives, actions, events, how we **understand** them, and **explain** them to ourselves
- Authority, Human Will, Love, Death, Social structure, Nature...
- Structures everything Human
- Exists over long stretches of time: longue durée



# Periodisation in Indian History

- Hindu : Muslim : Modern
- Ancient : Medieval : Modern
- Period will depend on:
  - Area defined as India
  - Its geography (climate, topography, physical markers, routes...)
  - Its produce (natural and man-made)
  - Its social structures
  - Its mental architecture; *mentalités*





# INDIA AND SURROUNDING COUNTRY MAP



## Legend

- City
- ★ Capital
- Road
- ⚓ ports
- River
- Water body
- International border

0 100 200

Production date: 25 January 2011  
Scale: 1:6,000,000 for A3 printing  
GIS Sources:  
ESRI/United Nations  
Global Administrative Unit Layers (GAUL) dataset, FAO  
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Coordinate System: Asia South Lambert Conformal  
Contour  
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic  
Datum: WGS 1984  
False Easting: 500000  
False Northing: 0.0000  
Central Meridian: 125.0000  
Standard Parallel 1: 10.0000  
Standard Parallel 2: -32.0000  
Latitude Of Origin: -18.0000  
Units: Meter

Note: While all efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented in this map, the publisher and the author accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. The user of the information presented in this map is advised to verify the information with the relevant authorities.

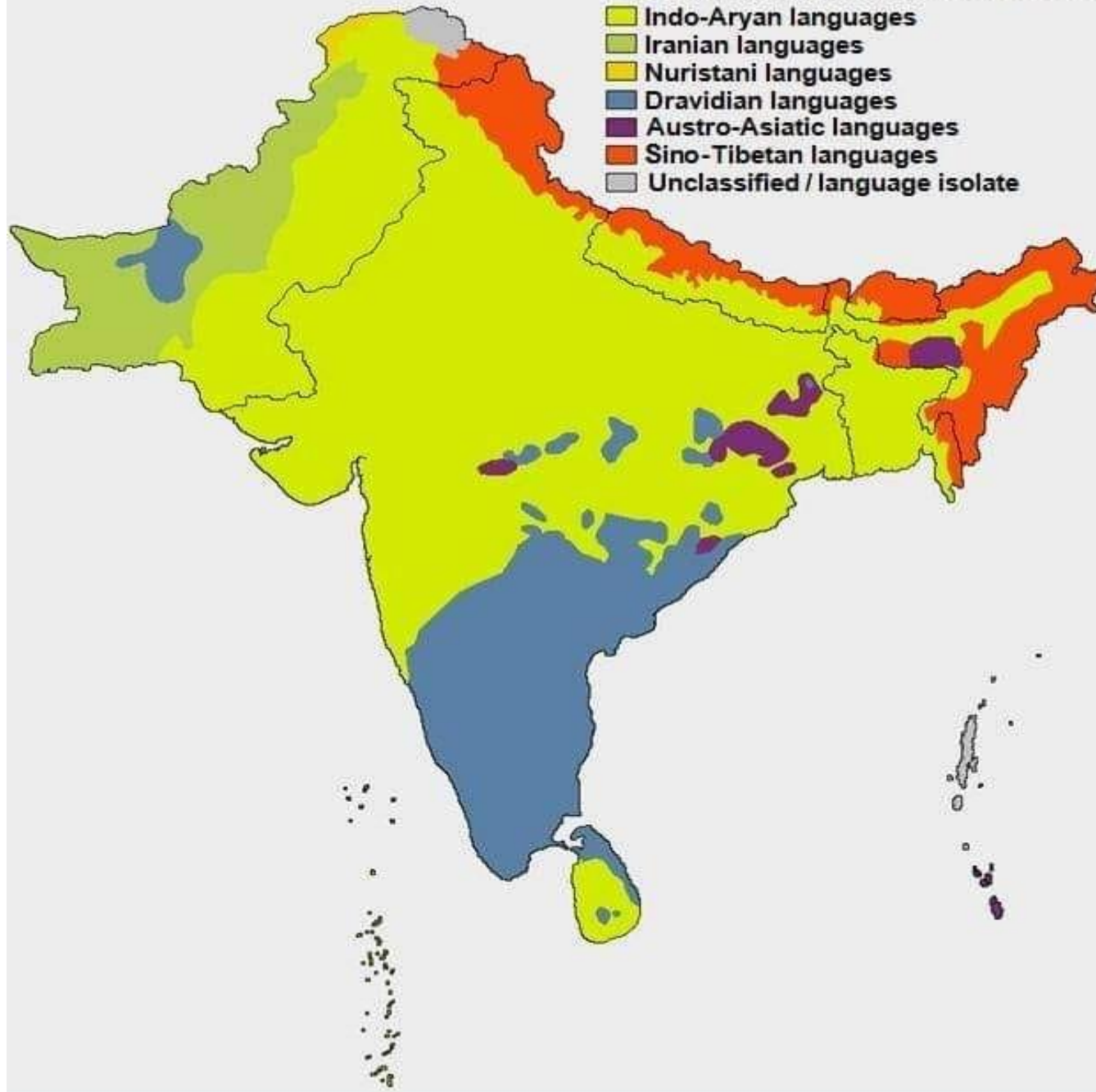
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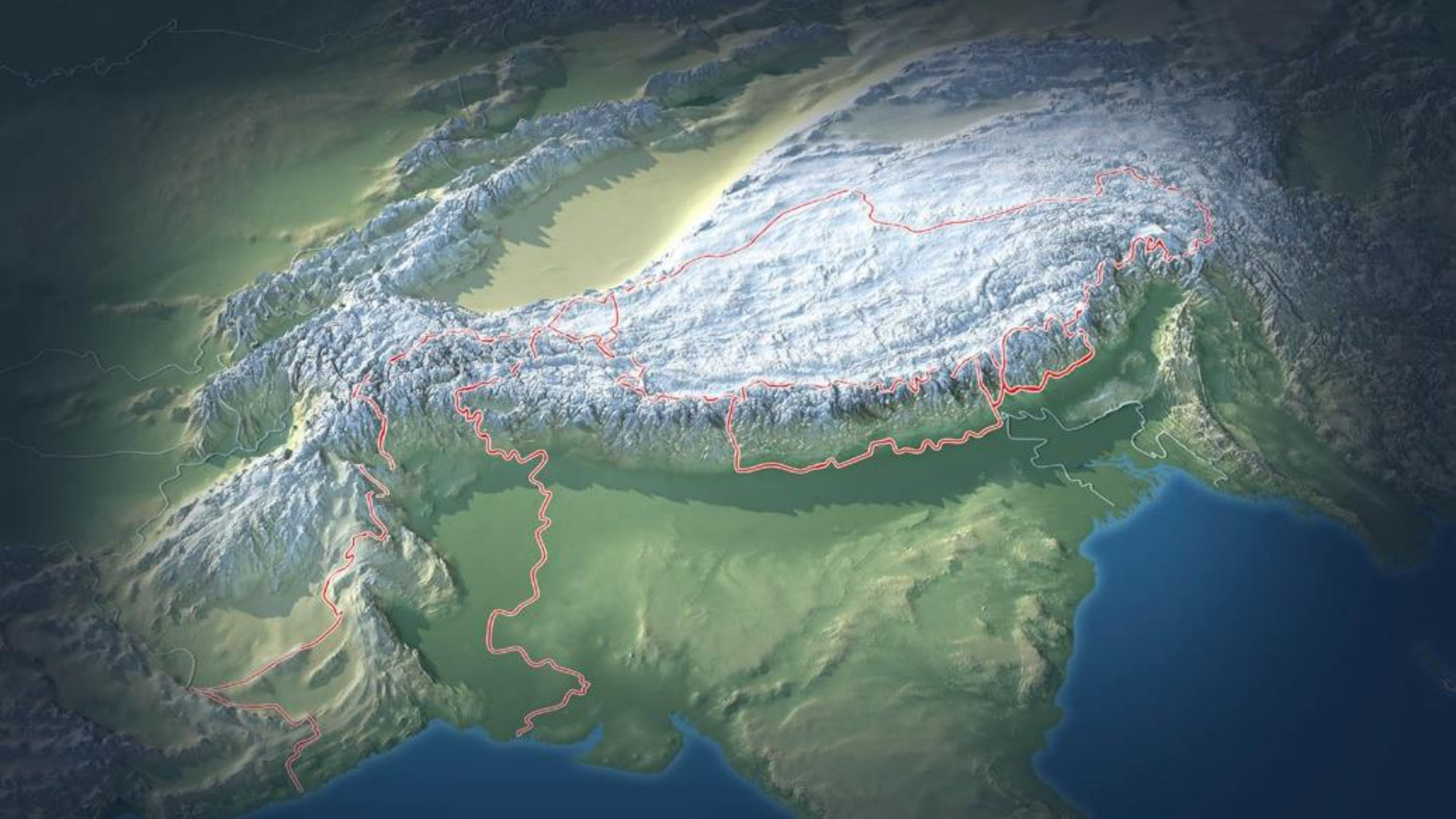


## SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGE FAMILIES

- Indo-Aryan languages
- Iranian languages
- Nuristani languages
- Dravidian languages
- Austro-Asiatic languages
- Sino-Tibetan languages
- Unclassified / language isolate

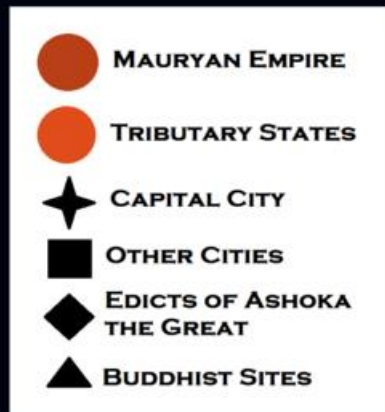








# THE MAURYAN EMPIRE 265 BCE









# Caste

- Varna
- Jati
- Dharmasastras established it as social law of divine origin
- Classic *longue durée*
  - Survived one and a half millennium
- Both conjuncture and *mentalités*
- Arranges how society is organized, economy works, and also how we perceive social ties and economic activities

# Monsoon

- 5 to 20 million years old
  - Pre-Human condition of climate
  - Effect on topography; on flora and fauna
- Indian calendar
  - Lunar, Luni-Solar: but the influence of the monsoon is missed
- Under-grounds Indian economy, political power, social systems
  - Has not changed from hunter-gatherer, pastoral, agricultural, mercantile, to industrial society
- How do we understand the role of monsoons in Indian history?
  - The baap of longue durée



# Forests

- The forests of the Ganges plains
  - Think Sundarbans; Jim-Corbett National Park
- Two and a half millennium long process of de-forestation

- From Delhi to Dhaka
- Iron and Fire used extensively
- Forests created the climate for Indo-Gangetic civilization
- Forests provided the tools; raw materials
- Use ended with the coming of industrial capitalism

