



# Early Indian Civilization

# India's First Cities

- What do you know about India???

# India's First Cities



- Climate and a unique geography influenced the rise of India's first civilizations...just as it did in Mesopotamia.



# India's First Cities

- India looks like a diamond hanging from the bottom of Asia.



- India is classified as a Sub-Continent, because even though it is part of Asia, huge mountains separate it from the rest of Asia.



# India's First Cities



- These enormous mountains are the **Himalaya's** and they are they highest mountains in the world.

# India's First Cities

- Mt Everest is located in the Himalaya's and is the tallest mountain above sea level.



- Everest weighs in at an astounding **29,029** feet



# India's First Cities



The **Taktshang Monastery**, also known as the "**Tiger's Nest**"

# India's First Cities





# India's First Cities



○ Today, there are six nations that make up the Indian Sub-Continent: **India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.**

# India's First Cities

- India has two very fertile river valleys.



- Both are fed by the massive glaciers on top of the mountains in Northern India...the Himalayas.



# India's First Cities

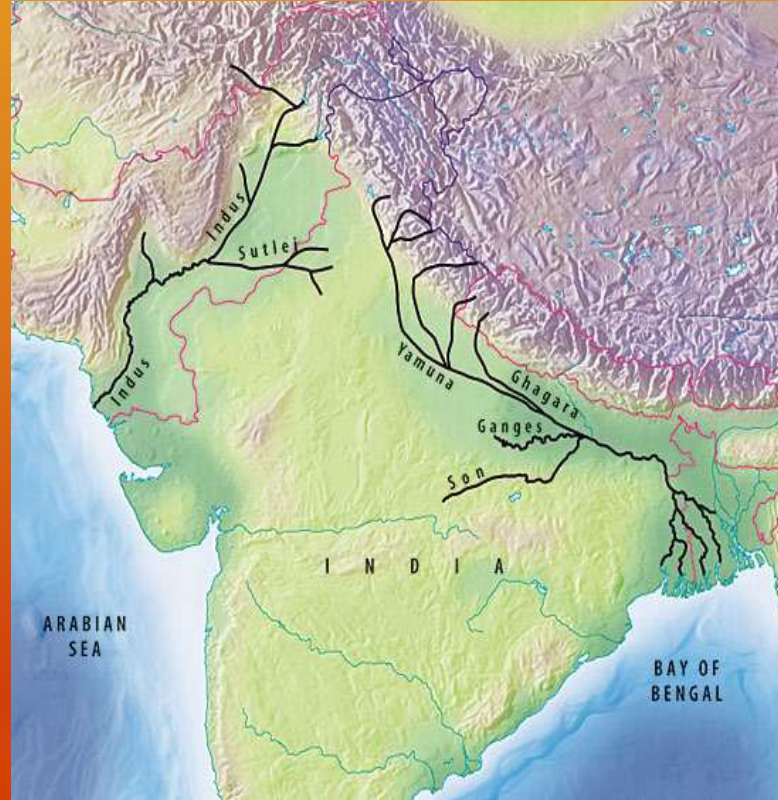
- When the snow in the Himalayas melts, water flows into the **Ganges River** and the **Indus River**.



- If the water is controlled, the land near these rivers can be used for farming...The Ganges River runs south of the Himalayas and flows into the Indian Ocean.

# India's First Cities

- The Indus River empties into the Arabian Sea.



- The area located around the Indus River is called the **Indus River Valley**...which is where we will spend during this lecture.



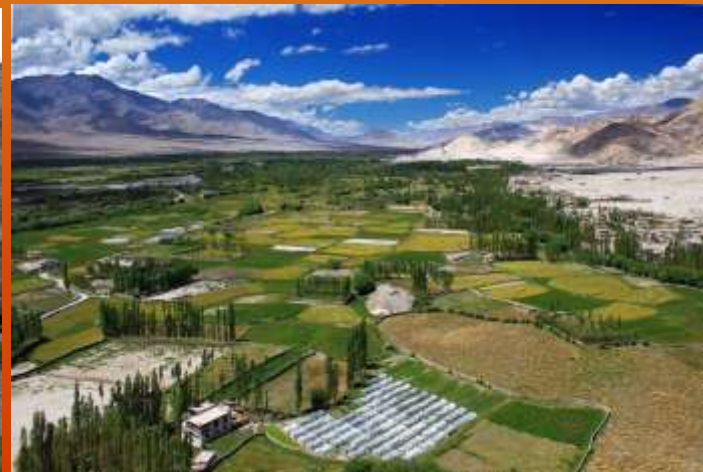
# Harappan Civilization



- One of the most fascinating yet mysterious cultures to emerge from the ancient world were the **Indus Valley Civilizations**...most notable was the **Harappan Civilization**

# India's First Cities

- All of the cities and civilizations at this time were centered around large areas along both sides of the **Indus River**...which was very much laid out like Mesopotamia.



- As these civilizations grew more in population improvements in agriculture and irrigation transpired...



# India's First Cities

- Like in Mesopotamia the advancement in agriculture tactics propelled this small group of people into a vast civilizations.



- The Harappan people created a unique social and religious order that helped shape south Asian society throughout modern times.



# India's First Cities

- It is almost impossible to fully follow the development of Harappan society development in detail...

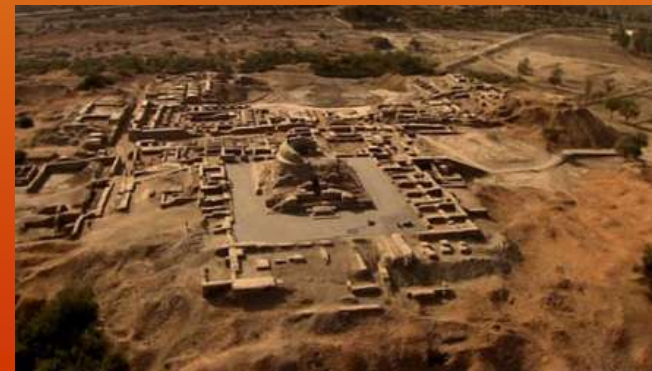


- Due to the fact that many of the earliest Harappan physical remains lie below the existing water table and thus are inaccessible to archeologist.



# India's First Cities

- The first civilization was the **Harappan Civilization** ...who were named after the city of **Harappa**.



- The finding of this city was a complete accident...the ruins of this area were discovered in 1826 and first excavated in 1920 and 1921.



# India's First Cities



- It was near the city of Harappa that ruins of the entire Indus Valley civilization were first discovered.



# India's First Cities



- The agriculture surplus in India was vast and this increased food supply stimulated population growth and supported the establishment of cities and specialized labor.

# India's First Cities

- It is clear from Harappan dwellings that the rich and poor lived in extremely different styles.



- The houses had flat roofs and many had staircases that allowed people to climb to the roof from the street...roofs were also used to dry crops in the sun.



# India's First Cities



- Many people lived in one room tenements which were in a barrack style, while other individual homes were two or three stories with numerous rooms.

# India's First Cities



- The advancement in well technology was incredible...The Harappan people figured out how to tap ground rivers and collect rain runoff.



# India's First Cities





# India's First Cities

- A second major city in the Indus River Valley at this time was **Mohenjo-Daro**



- It was 300 miles south of the city of Harappa and was constructed in the same manner.



# India's First Cities





# India's First Cities

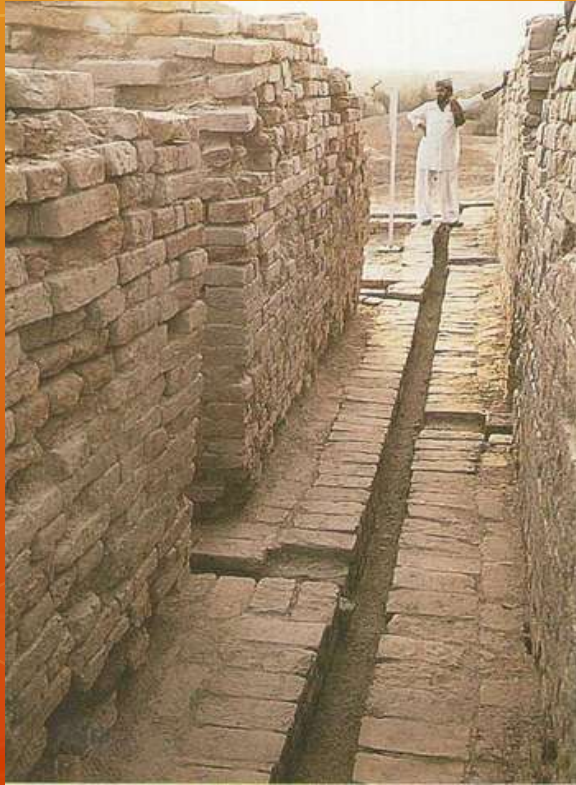


- Mohenjo-Daro also means "**Mound of the Dead**".



# India's First Cities

- Wastewater flowed to drains under the streets, running through pipes to pits outside the city walls.



- Houses also had garbage chutes connected to a bin in the street.

# India's First Cities





# India's First Cities

- Both Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were structurally advanced.



- Each city had a towering Citadel that acted as center for the ruling classes, religious leaders and wealthy merchants...

# India's First Cities



The citadel had massive walls... which provided protection against the floods of the Indus river... the citadel consisted of important buildings like the Granary and the seat of Government.



# India's First Cities



- Most houses had bathrooms with indoor plumbing and some type of running water...

# India's First Cities

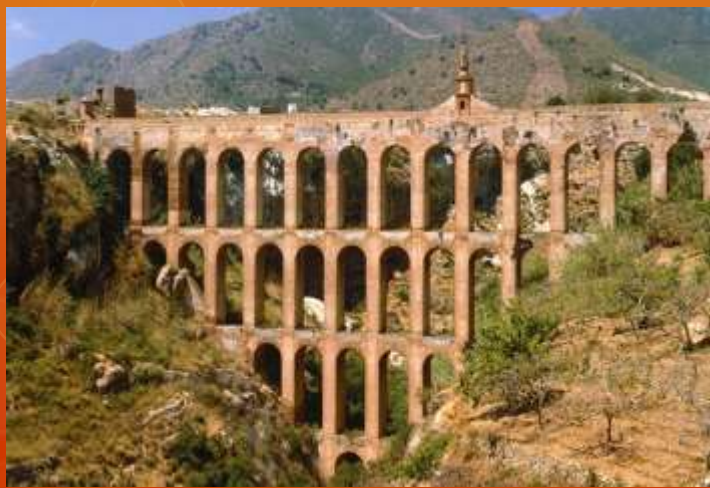


- In perspective these are Mid-Evil European bathrooms that came around about 2500 years later.



# India's First Cities

- Again just to put this in perspective, Rome built fancy aqueducts to bring fresh water into their capital city in 145 B.C.E.



- That is exactly 2000 years AFTER the Harappan's had already created them.

# India's First Cities

- Like other complex societies in ancient times, Harappa engaged in trade, both domestic and foreign.



- Pottery, tool and decorative items produced found their way to all corners of the Indus Valley.



# India's First Cities



- The cities also imported precious metals, tool and jewelry from neighboring peoples in Persia and the Hindu Kush mountains.

# India's First Cities





# India's First Cities



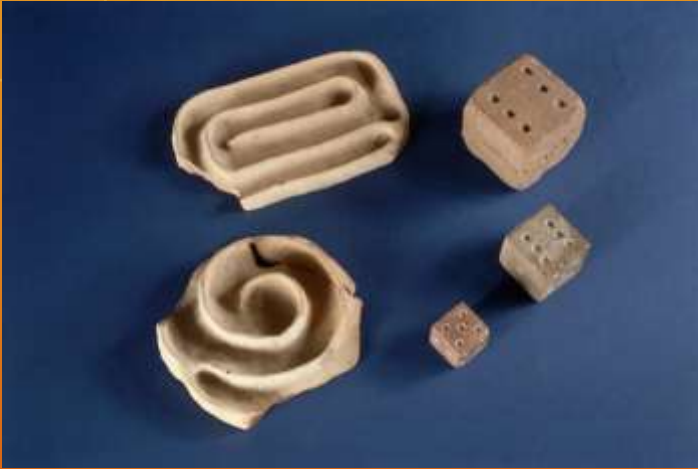
# India's First Cities



- The earliest known dice in the world come from a backgammon set from Iran, from about 3000 B.C.E... Harappan people certainly used dice in and around 2500 B.C.E...possibly through trade.



# India's First Cities



# India's First Cities

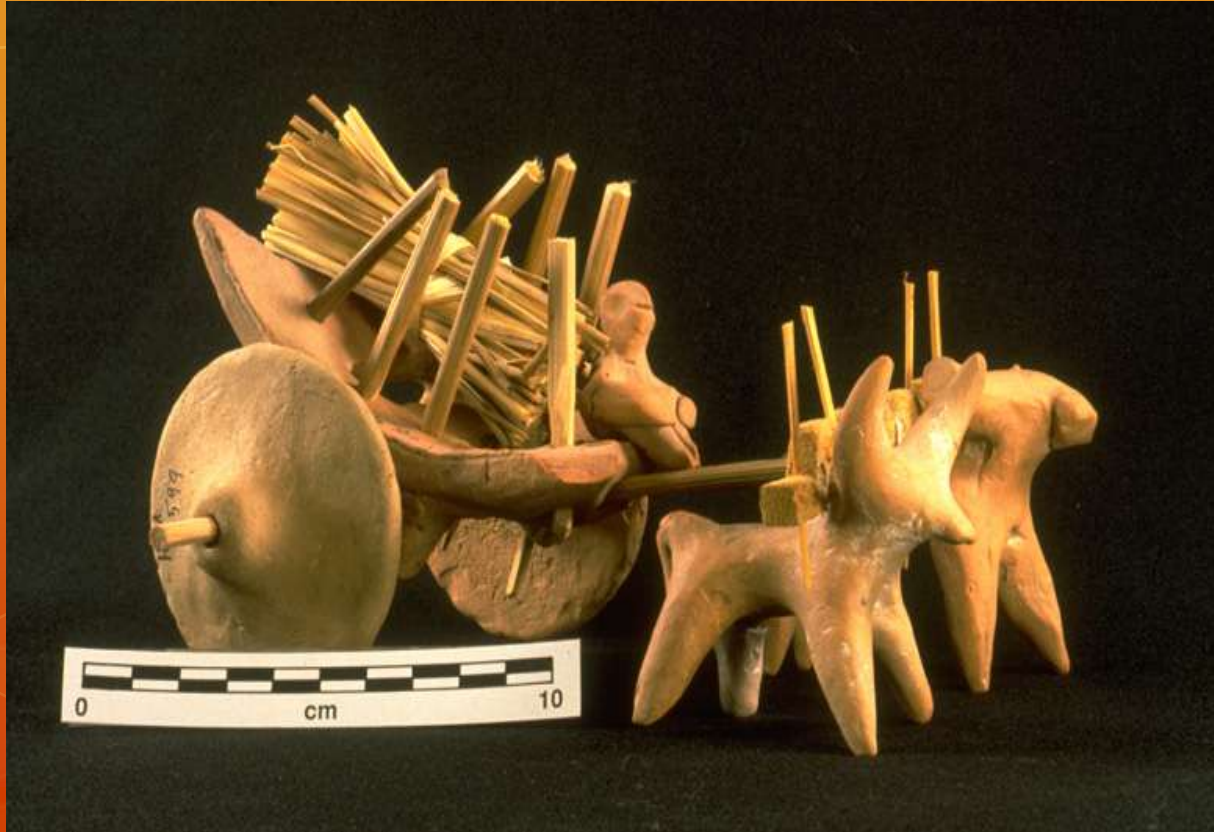


- Archeologist have also found many toys among the ruins, such as small monkeys that could be made to climb up a string.



# India's First Cities

- The Harappa people really loved their toys!



- They made many brilliant devices, such as toy carts and toy animals, from baked clay.

# India's First Cities





# India's First Cities



- The Harappan people were literate and used a form of **Indus Picture Script**.

# India's First Cities

- This language was short strings of symbols associated with the Indus Valley Culture.



- The language to this day still remains coded...and scholars have so far been unable to really understand the Harappan pictographic script.



# India's First Cities



- Only small parts of this language has been deciphered , leaving numerous questions about this civilization unanswered.  
(Seal of live goods)

# India's First Cities

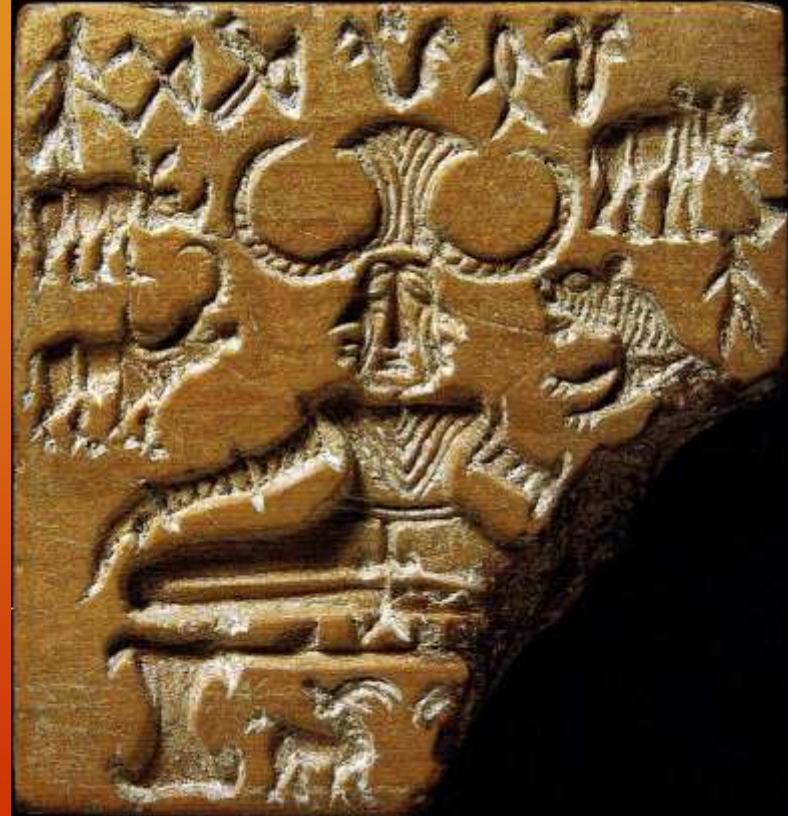


- Like most ancient societies the Harappan generated gods and goddesses they associated with creation and fertility.



# India's First Cities

- Many scholars believe that some Harappan deities actually survived the collapse of the society and later found places in the Hindu religion.



- The fertility deities found in Hinduism bare striking similarities with the Harappan forms.



# India's First Cities

- In 1900 B.C.E. Harappa Society entered a period of great decline...the primary cause was **ecological degeneration**.



- Basically the Harappa deforested the Indus Valley



# India's First Cities



- Over a period of half a millennium or more the Indus valley became a desert... agriculture was completely impossible.



# India's First Cities



- By 1700 B.C.E. the populations of Harappa and Mohenjo Daro had abandoned their cities and by 1500 B.C.E. the smaller Harappan Cities had almost entirely collapsed.



# Who were the Aryan's?

- Aryan Invasion time...



- First what is an Aryan?

# Who were the Aryan's?



- **Aryan** – (Sanskrit for "noble") term used to describe the Indo-European Nomadic Tribes, language and family.



# Who were the Aryan's



- Just as the Harappan society declined, bands of foreigners filtered into the Indian subcontinent, most of which were nomadic in decent.

# Who were the Aryan's?

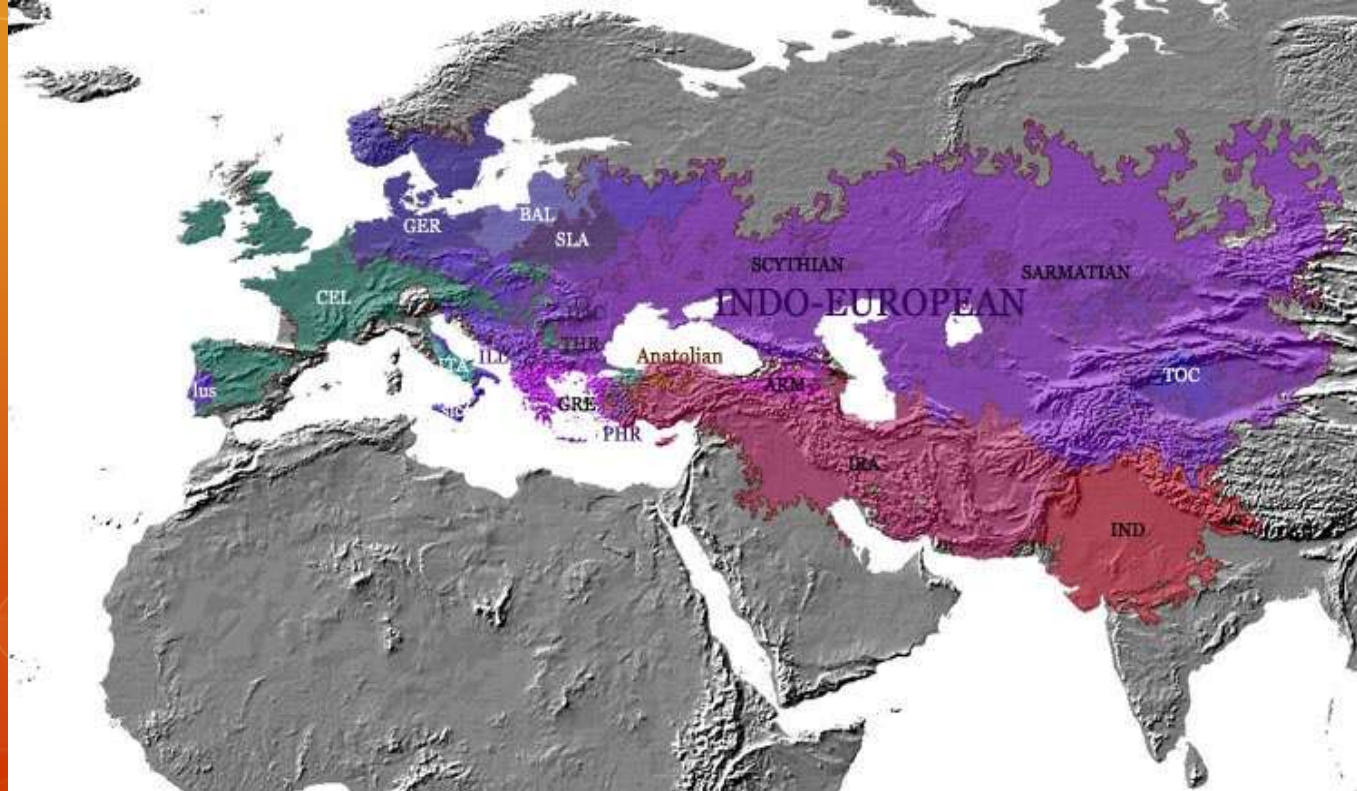


- The most prominent of these invaders were the "**Noble**" **Aryans** that begun to establish their presence by about 1500 B.C.E.



# Who were the Aryan's?

- The story goes like this:



- The Aryans were a tribe of Indo-European speaking, horse riding nomads living in the waterless steppes of Eurasia.

# Who were the Aryan's?



- The Aryans were skilled warriors who practiced incredible herding techniques which helped them create small agricultural settlements throughout Northern Indian



# Who were the Aryan's?



- The Aryans prized their horses because they were quite valuable and extremely rare... horses did not breed well in India due to the difference in climate.

# Who were the Aryan's?



- Sometime around 1200 B.C.E., Aryan warriors swept through the Hindu Kush Pass, waged war and took control of the Indus River Valley...without the Harappan their was very little resistance.

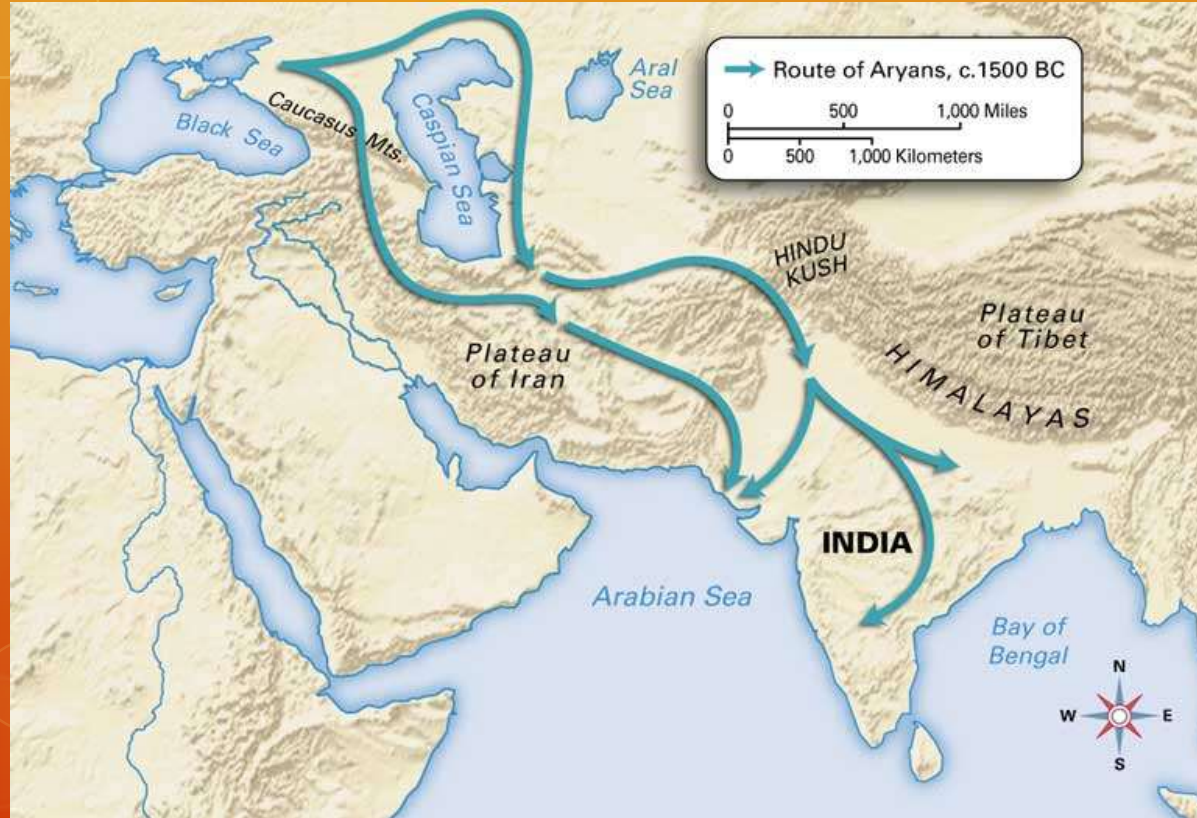


# Who were the Aryan's?



○ The Hindu Kush Pass...

# Who were the Aryan's?



- Form there the Aryans moved into the Ganges River Valley where they began to mount more war campaigns and eventually conquered all of northern India



# Who were the Aryan's?



- The early Aryans did not use writing.
- They instead preserved extensive collections of religious and literary works by transmitting them orally from generation to generation in their sacred language...**Sanskrit.**





# Who were the Aryan's?

- The earliest of these orally transmitted works were called the **Vedas**.



- **Vedas** - Were a collection of hymns, songs, prayers and rituals honoring the various gods of the Aryans.



# Who were the Aryan's?

- Between 1400 and 900 B.C.E. Aryan Priest finally committed these **Vedas to writing**



- Composed in **Vedic Sanskrit**, the texts composed the oldest layer of Sanskrit literature and the oldest scriptures of the **Hinduism Religion** and the **Caste System**.



# Who were the Aryan's?

- The Vedas also showed records that became a major source of information about India and the Aryan civilization.



- The language is not spoken today...however it is the basis for many of the modern languages spoken throughout South Asia



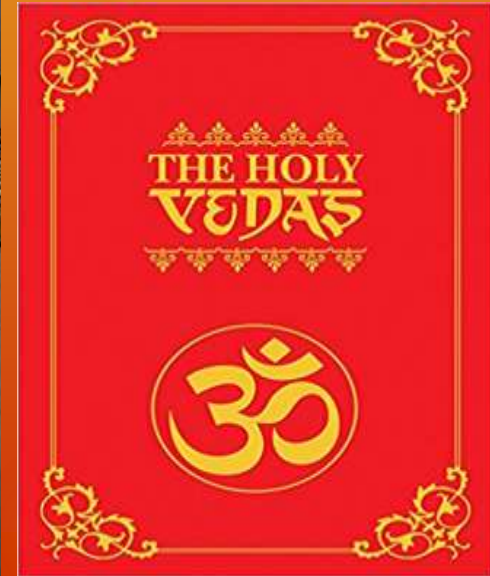
# Who were the Aryan's?

- A few Vegas also described many of the Aryan victories during the invasion of India and their brutal tendencies towards one another.



- They did not form a state or government but rather hundreds of chiefdoms around agricultural villages.

# Who were the Aryan's?



- Due to the fact that the Aryans did not construct **Complex Societies** or any structures the Vedas are the only reason why we know what we do about the civilization.



# Who were the Aryan's?

- They also had a very different political system from the Harappan system.



- They lived in small communities based mostly on family ties.

# Who were the Aryan's?

- There was no single ruling family, king, emperor or president, instead each family group and village had its own leader, often a skilled warrior.



- These leaders or skilled warriors were called **Rajas** who were essentially treated like royalty.



# Who were the Aryan's?

Although the Aryans did not build large imperial states they did construct a well defined social order in the **Caste System**.



This system rested on sharp hereditary distinctions between individuals and to this day plagues India's lower class...we will get into this next week .

# Who were the Aryan's?



○ An interesting Fact...many striking connections have been found between the cultures of ancient **Vedic Indians (Aryans)** and the **Celtic** people of Europe.



# Who were the Aryan's?



- Rituals, language connections and similarities in social order all point to the fact that these cultures may have come from the same nomadic European tribe and had eventually split from each other...



# Who were the Aryan's?

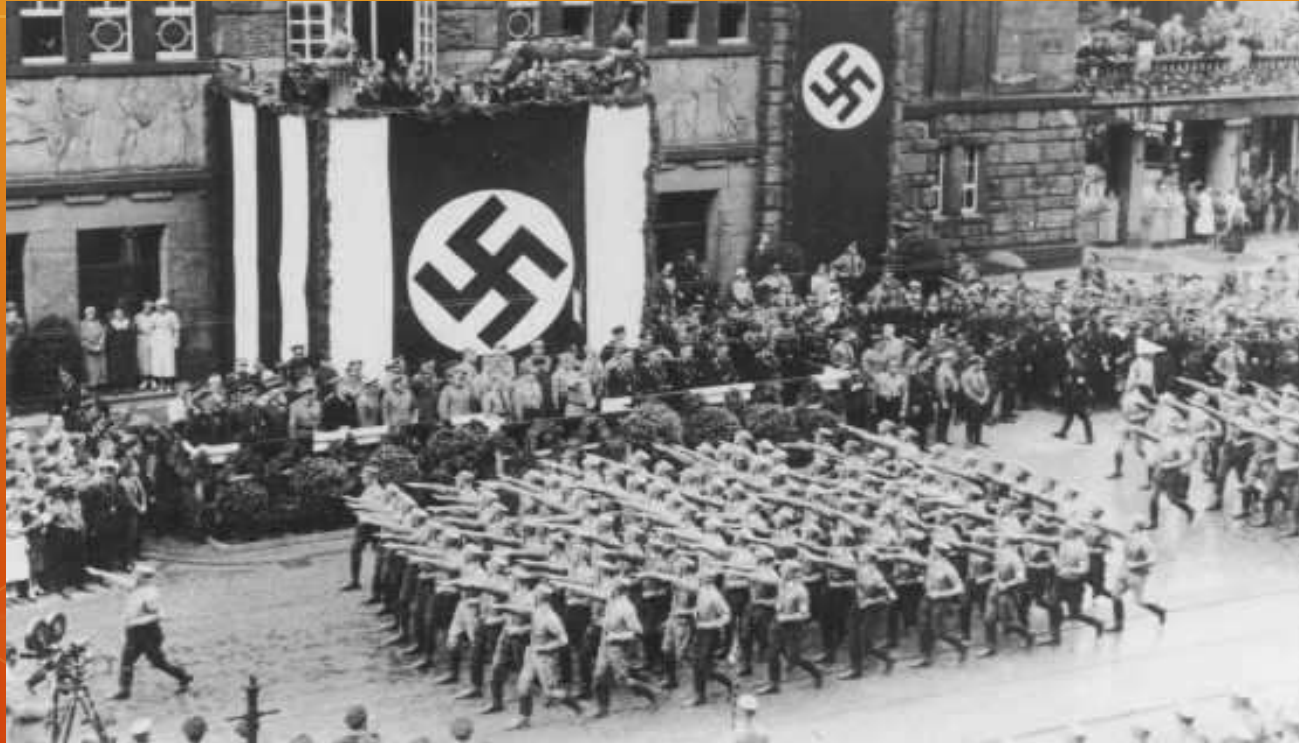


- Many historians believe the caste system in India is the same as the three class social organization in Celtic society.



# Aryan in today's world

- The year is 1933 and Germany is changing.



- A man named Adolf Hitler has gained control of the German people and is beginning to make significant changes in their social structure.

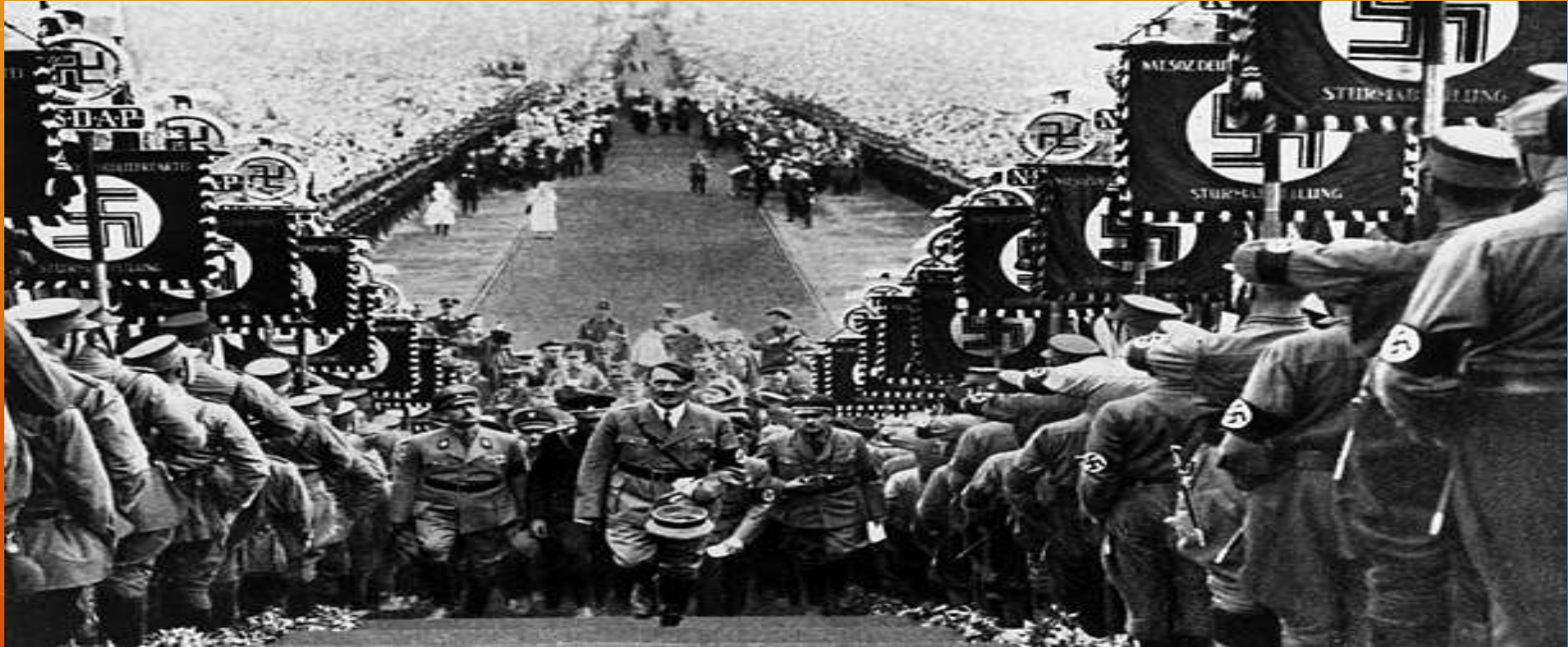
# Aryan in today's world

- Hitler used the idea that the original **Aryan** people and their descendants were a distinctive super race of the larger Caucasian people
- ...generally Blonde Haired and Blue Eyed.





# Aryan in today's world



- He used the violence of the original Aryan tribes to promote racism in Germany and to encourage this idea that all Germans were part of this super race.

# Aryan in today's world



- We of course know that this is not entirely true...although violent the original Aryan people where not from Germany and most likely were not Caucasian in race.



# Aryan in today's world



- The German people were so captivated by Hitler that they believed in his Aryan myth...losing all sense of reasoning and began to promote his anti-Semitism racist behaviors.