

EARLY INDIA

The Indus River Valley

- closer to Europe, Middle East than China
 - influences, invasions- had to adapt

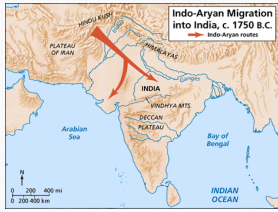


DIFFICULTIES IN UNIFYING

- Landscape
 - Indus and Ganges- agriculture
 - Himalayas- herding
 - Southern Rim- trading, sea travel
- Climate
 - monsoons- seasonal rains → floods
 - no consistent harvest

VEDIC AND EPIC AGE

- begins with Aryan invasions

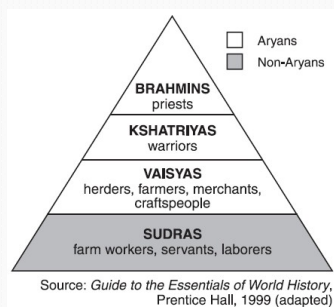


VEDAS

- o sacred books
- o Mahabharata, Ramayana
 - real and mythical battles
- o Upanishads
 - more mystical

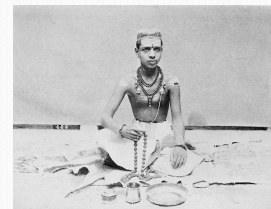


CASTE SYSTEM



BRAHMANS

- o priestly caste
- o highest status, strictest rules
 - avoid dirt
 - cannot obtain own food
- o first duty
 - study Vedas



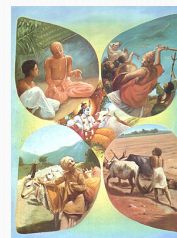
KSHATRIYAS

- o soldiers, generals, kings
- o role
 - defend society



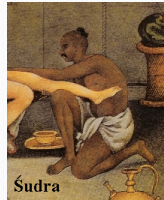
VAISHYAS

- o roles
 - agriculture, trading



SUDRAS

- one role
 - serve members of higher castes
 - leather working, laundry, etc



HARIJANS (UNTOUCHABLES)

- outcasts
 - given jobs no one else wanted
 - not admitted into Hindu temples

