Chapter 4

Empires of India and China
(600 B.C.–A.D. 550)
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Section 1: Hinduism and Buddhism

Section 2: Powerful Empires of India

Section 3: Pillars of Indian Life

Section 4: Philosophy and Religion in China

Section 5: Strong Rulers Unite China
In what ways is Hinduism a complex religion?

What are the major teachings of the Buddha?

How did Buddhism spread beyond India to become a major world religion?
Chapter 4, Section 1

Hinduism grew out of many varied beliefs of different peoples who settled in India. It has many gods and goddesses and many forms of worship. Despite this diversity, all Hindus share certain basic beliefs:

- All the universe is part of the unchanging, all-powerful spiritual force called brahman.
- The ultimate goal of existence is to achieve moksha, or union with brahman.
- To achieve moksha, people must free themselves from selfish desires.
- One must obey the law of karma.
- Reincarnation allows people to continue working toward moksha through several lifetimes.
Life is full of suffering.

The only cure for suffering is to follow the Eightfold Path, a middle road between a life devoted to pleasure and a life of harsh self-denial.

It is important to live a moral life.

Enlightenment is achieved through meditation.

The ultimate goal is nirvana, union with the universe and release from the cycle of rebirth.
Followers accompanied the Buddha as he preached across Northern India.

Some Buddhists set up monasteries and convents that grew into centers of learning.

Missionaries and traders spread Buddhism across India to many parts of Asia.
• How did Maurya rulers create a strong central government?

• What were some major achievements of the kingdoms of the Deccan?

• Why is the period of Gupta rule in India considered a golden age?
Empires of India

Chapter 4, Section 2

Maurya empire about 250 B.C.
Gupta empire about A.D. 400

Mercator Projection

0 250 500 Miles

0 250 500 Kilometers

BACTRIA
HINDU KUSH
KUNLUN MTS.
XIZANG (TIBET)

GANDHARA
Kabul

MAGADHA
Pataliputra
Nalanda

Ajanta

ARABIAN SEA
DECCAN PLATEAU
TAMIL KINGDOMS
SRI LANKA

KALINGA

INDIAN OCEAN

60°E 75°E 90°E
Maurya rulers created a strong central government. These rulers

- supervised the building of roads and harbors.
- collected taxes and managed state-owned factories.
- created royal courts.
- created a secret police force to report on corruption, crime, and dissent, or opposing ideas.
- trained warriors to guard the royal palace.
| People were Dravidians with different languages and traditions. | Women enjoyed high status and economic power. |
| Each kingdom had its own capital and magnificent temples. | Deccan writers left a rich and diverse literature. |
| Rulers improved harbors to support overseas trade. | Rulers were tolerant of all religions and foreign settlers. |
| Merchants traded with the Roman Empire and China. |  |
Under the Guptas, India enjoyed a period of great cultural achievement.

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<tr>
<th>LEARNING</th>
<th>MEDICINE</th>
<th>MATHEMATICS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scholars taught many subjects at Hindu and Buddhist schools.</td>
<td>Doctors treated illnesses with herbs, performed surgery, set broken bones, and vaccinated against smallpox.</td>
<td>Mathematicians invented system of numbers we use today and developed decimal system and concept of zero.</td>
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<tr>
<th>ARCHITECTURE</th>
<th>CARVING &amp; PAINTING</th>
<th>LITERATURE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Builders designed magnificent stone temples and dome-shaped shrines called stupas.</td>
<td>Artists painted murals, or wall paintings and created carvings telling the story of the life of the Buddha.</td>
<td>Writers collected and recorded fables and folk tales. Kalidasa wrote classical plays.</td>
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</table>
• How did the caste system affect Indian life?

• What values influenced family life?

• How did the traditional Indian village function economically and politically?
Caste rules governed every aspect of life—where people lived, what they ate, how they dressed, and what work they did.

Life for the lowest ranking caste, the “Untouchables,” was harsh and restricted.

People knew that they could not change their status in this life. However, they believed that they could reach a higher state in a future life by fulfilling the duties of their present caste.

Each caste had its own leaders and its own occupation, and caste members cooperated to help one another.
The status and freedom of women decreased over time. A woman’s duties were to marry, obey her husband, and raise children.

Parents had a duty to arrange good marriages for their children, based on caste and family interests.

Early on, children learned family duties, such as obedience of caste rules.

Family wishes came before individual wishes.

The family was patriarchal. The father or oldest male had absolute authority.

The ideal was the **joint family**, in which extended family all lived under one roof.
Chapter 4, Section 3

**Village Life**

Villages were self-sufficient, producing most of the food and goods needed. Sometimes villagers traded at regional markets.

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<th>POLITICS</th>
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<td>Villages were self-sufficient, producing most of the food and goods needed. Sometimes villagers traded at regional markets.</td>
<td>Each village ran its own affairs facing little interference as long as it paid its share of taxes. A village headman and council made decisions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• What were the major teachings of Confucius?

• How did Legalism and Daoism differ in their views on government?

• Why did many Chinese people accept Buddhist ideas?
Confucius developed a philosophy, or system of ideas, that was concerned with world goals, especially how to ensure social order and good government. His ideas included:

- Harmony results when people accept their place in society.

- Everyone has duties and responsibilities. Filial piety, or respect for parents, is the most important duty.

- A ruler has the responsibility to provide good government. In return, the people would be respectful and loyal subjects.

- Government leaders and officials should be well educated.
Legalism and Daoism promoted very different views of government.

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<th>DAOISM</th>
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<td>The only way to achieve order is to pass strict laws and impose harsh punishments on lawbreakers.</td>
<td>Government is unnatural and is the cause of many problems.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The ruler alone possesses power.</td>
<td>The best government is the one that governs the least.</td>
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</table>
Buddhism became popular among the Chinese, especially in times of crisis. It was appealing because it

- promised an escape from suffering.
- offered hope of eternal happiness.
- presented Buddha as a compassionate, merciful god.
- taught that anyone could gain salvation through prayer, good works, and devotion.
• How did Shi Huangdi unite China?

• How did Han rulers strengthen the economy and government of China?

• Why is the Han period considered a golden age of Chinese civilization?
How did Shi Huangdi unite China?

He replaced feudal states with military districts governed by loyal officials.
He sent spies to report on local officials.
He forced noble families to live in his capital so he could monitor them.
He jailed, tortured, and killed those who opposed his rule.
He had all books of philosophy and literature burned.
He standardized weights and measures.
He created uniformity in Chinese writing.
He strengthened the transportation system.
He ordered the building of the Great Wall.
Though his methods were brutal, Shi Huangdi ushered in China’s classical age.

This period is called a classical civilization because it set patterns in government, philosophy, religion, science, and the arts that served as the framework for later cultures.
Han rulers strengthened the economy and government of China.

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<td>They improved canals and roads.</td>
<td>They made Confucianism the official belief of the state.</td>
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<td>They set up granaries across the empire.</td>
<td>They relied on well-educated scholars to run the government.</td>
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<td>They reorganized finances.</td>
<td>They used a civil service exam to find the most qualified officials.</td>
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<td>They imposed a government <strong>monopoly</strong> on iron and salt.</td>
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<td>They opened up the Silk Road, a trade route linking China and the West.</td>
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Han China made such tremendous advances in so many fields, that the Chinese later called themselves “the people of Han.”

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<th>TECHNOLOGY</th>
<th>THE ARTS</th>
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<td>Made paper out of wood pulp. Pioneered advanced methods of shipbuilding. Invented the rudder, fishing reels, wheelbarrows, and suspension bridges.</td>
<td>Built grand temples and palaces. Produced jade and ivory carvings and ceramic figures. Improved bronzeworking and silkmaking techniques.</td>
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