

Chapter 4 – Ancient India

Section 1 – Indus & Ganges River Valleys Notes

I. India's Geographic Setting

A. Monsoon Climate

- 1. Winter Monsoons bring dry, cold air into the valleys**
- 2. People depend on the Summer Monsoons to bring rains for their crops**

B. Barriers And Pathways

- 1. Himalayas and Hindu Kush mountain ranges for a barrier between India and other lands**
- 2. Indus and Ganges rivers flow from the Himalayas and produce pathways through the mountains**

II. Life In The Indus River Valley

A. Ancient City Planners

- 1. Ruins of Mohenjo-Daro show a carefully planned city**
- 2. Built Above ground level to protect from flooding**
- 3. The Citadel served as the cities highest point**
- 4. The city had a drainage system of clay pipes that ran under the streets and carried away waste**

B. Life in Mohenjo-Daro

- 1. City was active with Merchants, Artisans, and Traders**
- 2. People enjoyed pets, games, toys, and music**
- 3. The language, writing, government, and religion of these people are all unknown to historians today**

C. A Mysterious Decline

- 1. Around 2000B.C. Indus valley farmers began to abandon their land.**
- 2. Between 2000 and 1500B.C. newcomers from the north entered the valley and eventually gained power**

III. A New Culture Arises

A. Aryan Culture Spreads

- 1. Combined traditions of original inhabitants with ideas and beliefs brought by the Aryans**
- 2. New culture spread from Indus Valley to Ganges Valley**

B. Aryan Life

- 1. Religious leaders were priests, called Brahmins**
- 2. Society was organized into four classes (Caste System)**

C. Social Order

- 1. By 500B.C. there was a strict division of classes**
- 2. In a caste system, people remain in class of their parents**