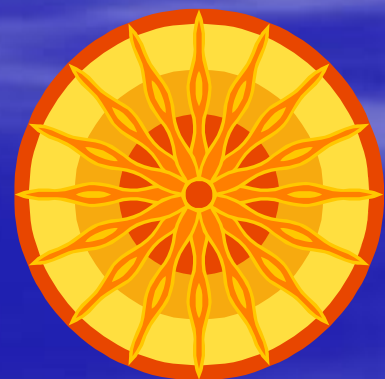
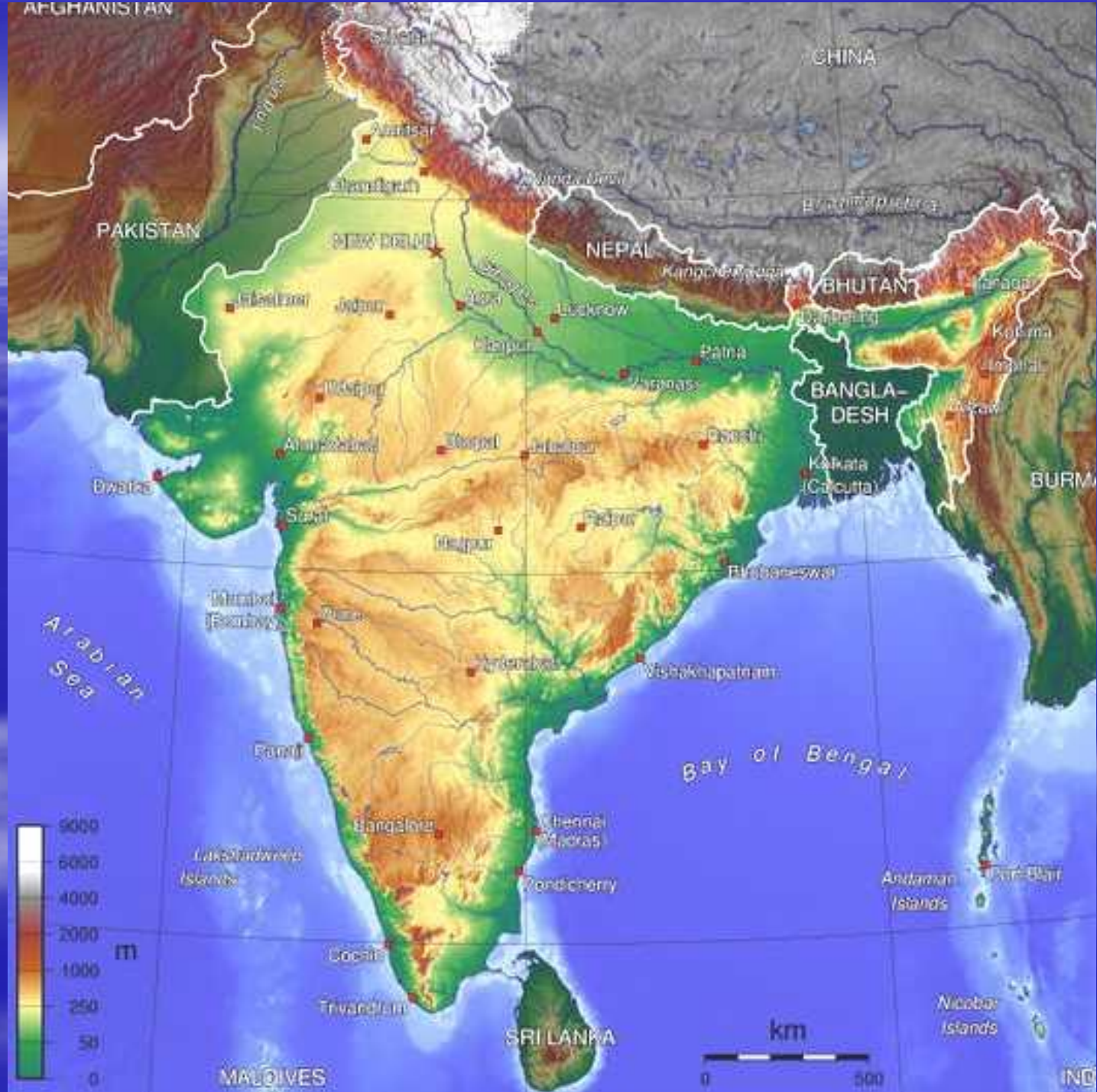


An Introduction to India

World History-Schoellhorn





Interesting Items about India

- Home to over 1 billion people
- Contains 18% of world population.



Himalaya Mountains

- Highest Mountains in the world
- Give India a natural border
- Feeds the Indus and Ganges Rivers



The Himalayas: “Home of the Snows”- World’s Highest Mt. Range



Geographical Goodies

■ India:

- **Subcontinent** of Asia
- Developed around 2500 BCE
- Himalaya and Hindu Kush Mountains protect India from invasion.
- Major rivers are source for farming, led to Indian civilization:
 - Brahmaputra
 - Ganges
 - Indus



The Hindu Kush Mountains

- Tough border between India and Afghanistan
- Khyber Pass provides trade routes to Asia.



The Khyber Pass



The Development of India

- 2,000 B.C.E tribes called **Aryans** arrive in India.
 - Name means “Noble Man”
 - Settled near the Indus River Valley. (Today, Pakistan)



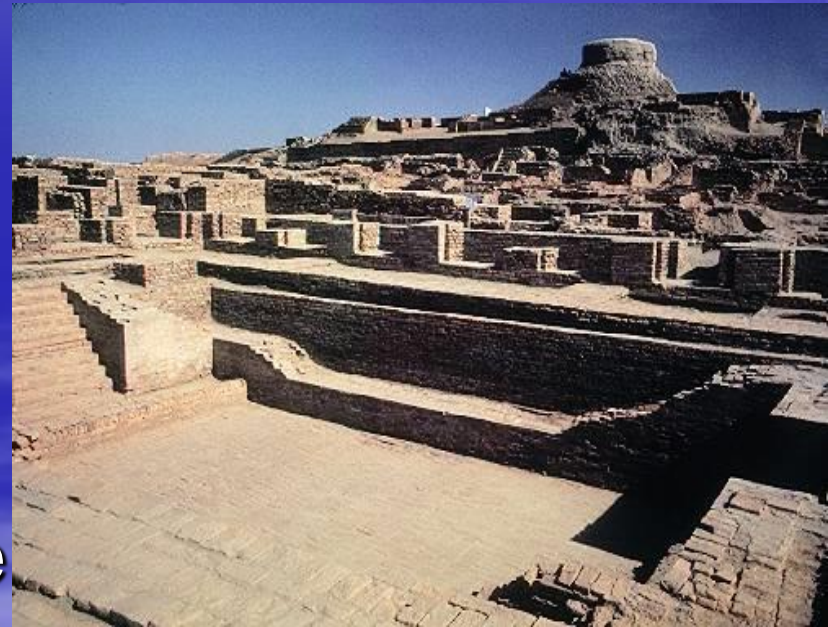
The Early People of India

- Early Indus writing never decoded
- What is known comes from cities
 - Harappa
 - Mohenjodaro
- 2500 B.C.E: Indians leave evidence of cities more advanced than Egypt!
- Isolation by mountains gave India time to develop.



The Making of Mohenjodaro

- “Developed in the Indus River Valley
- Divided city into two sections:
 - The **Citadel**: a fort surrounded by a wall, used for protection of the city.
 - The civilian area for work and living.





Civilization in the City

- Advances system of streets/roads
- A great bath of waterproof brick using a drainage system.
- Sewer system developed even before Ancient Rome.



The Citadel



Drainage systems in Mohenjodaro



The Impact of Indian Geography

- Because India (and China) were isolated by their geography, their culture and beliefs were different from others we have studied.
 - Hinduism and Buddhism shaped Indian society.



Creating the Caste System

- Aryans divided society into four social classes or “castes” based on jobs.
 - Brahmins or Priests
 - Warriors/Public Service
 - Traders/Merchants/Landowners/Business Men
 - Peasants/Traders-Unskilled Laborers.

**Varna* or skin color was the basis for assigning castes. Aryans were lighter skinned than people in Southern India.



The Untouchables

- Members of Indian society who worked in the lowest jobs (gravediggers, butchers, sewage cleaners, etc.) were known as **“Untouchables”**.

*Just their touch could ruin the purity of someone higher.



Specifics of the Caste System

- .
 - One was born into a caste.
 - Could not marry outside of caste.
 - Could only work specific jobs.
 - Could not associate with higher classes.
 - Could only live in certain areas, depending on caste.
- (Social movement was impossible in this system)



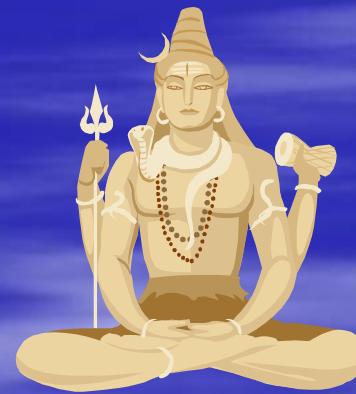
The Aryans are Also Polytheistic

- Aryans left little records except 3,000 year old sacred books orally passed on called **Vedas** .
 - Spells
 - Prayers
 - Religious rituals
 - In Sanskrit, Vedas means “knowledge”



What is Hinduism?

- Established by teachings in the Vedas.
- Primary religion of India, named for Indus river.
 - World's oldest religion
 - No founder
 - More a personal way of life than set rules to follow.
 - Many gods, but similar rules for all Hindus.



How is Hinduism Different from other Religions?



- All gods are different faces of Brahma, the main god.
- No set religious rules (when to pray, fasting, etc).
- View cows as sacred animals.
- A way of life, not a religion.
- Believes in reincarnation (**Samsara**)
- Connected to the social class Caste system
- 80% of all Indian people are Hindus.





Christianity

Taoism

Confucianism

Buddhism

Islam

Hinduism

Indigenous Religions
&
Islamic and Christian
Missions

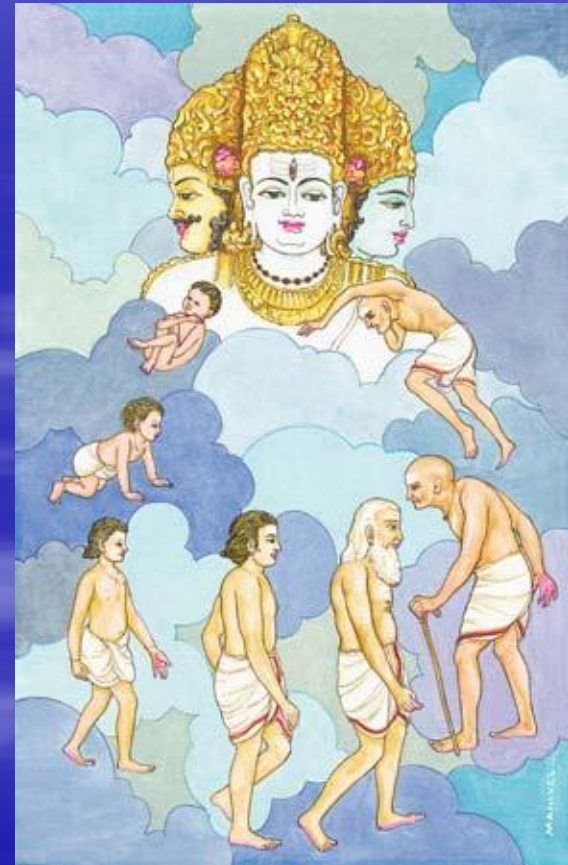
The Big Deal with Brahma

- Hinduism does have Brahma, one supreme creator god.
 - All other gods are different faces of him.
 - Human souls are all a part of Brahma.



Repeating through Reincarnation

- Hindus believe in **Reincarnation** or “**Samsara**”:
 - A persons soul is reborn repeatedly until he/she reaches **Moksha**: a state of understanding of all worldly things/freedom from reincarnation.



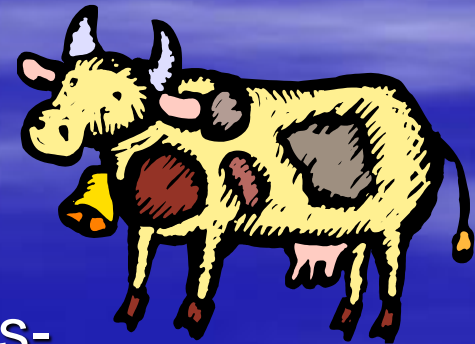
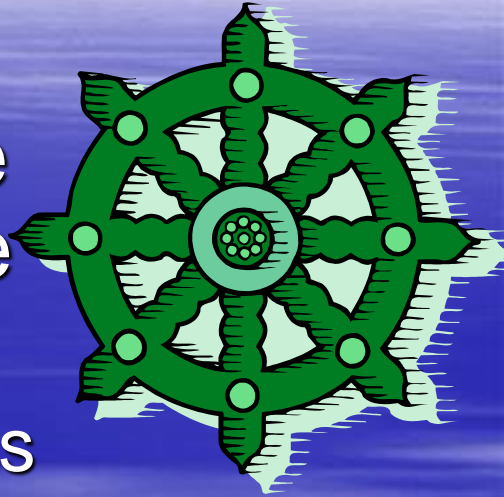
Connecting Karma to the Caste System

- A person's **Karma** determines the life he gets after reincarnation.
- Connected to the Caste System
 - Good deeds= good reincarnation into higher caste
 - Bad deeds- born into a lower caste or an animal.



The Duties of Dharma

- **Dharma (duties)** was rules of the universe to follow in order to have good karma:
 - Don't steal, lie, cheat, kill etc.- Ethics to live by.
 - Follow the dharma in your caste and your life could be better next time.
 - Basic rules:
 - Get married
 - Share with others
 - Be nonviolent (especially towards cows-milk, butter, etc.)



The Greatness of the Ganges

- The Ganges River is worshipped as holy because of its life giving powers.
- Hindus make pilgrimages there.
 - Cremated ashes often dumped in the Ganges.
 - Bathing in river is believed to purify the soul.



The Beginnings of Buddhism

- Began by **Siddhartha Gautama**: a noble Indian who left his palace and began wandering, bored.
 - Outside the palace he saw suffering was everywhere (old age, sickness, death).
- Began seeking **Enlightenment**: wisdom/understanding of the cause of suffering in the world.



Siddharta Sees Serenity

- While wandering, Siddharta came across an old man meditating, sitting peacefully and calm.
 - “How are you so peaceful among so much suffering?”
 - The man was an **Ascetic**: a person who gives up all worldly pleasures.
 - Siddharta tried this and still found he was unhappy



The First Buddha



- Siddhartha became the first **Buddha** to reach **“Enlightenment”** (understanding) through meditation.
 - Discovered the true way to **Nirvana: a state happiness and peace**
- Followers of his teachings became **“Buddhists.”**

The Four Noble Truths

- Siddhartha's first sermon to his followers gave them the **Four Noble Truths** that he had reached in Enlightenment.
 1. Life is filled with sorrow, suffering.
 2. The cause of all suffering is desire for worldly pleasures.
 3. To end suffering, end all desires.
 4. To end all desires, follow the **Eightfold Path**.



Why did Buddhism break away from Hinduism?

- Not as strict the strict caste system, embraced all people.
- Rejected gods to worship, focused more on self perfection than worshiping gods.
- Gave people a goal of reaching Enlightenment to end suffering.



The Eightfold Path

- Goal of Buddhism is to reach **Nirvana**: The release from pain and suffering.
- Many lifetimes are needed to do this through reincarnation.
 - To get there, follow 8 steps or a Path.



What are the Steps of the 8 Fold Path?

- ***The Eightfold Path***—This is the path that the Buddha prescribed for the elimination of desire, and thus of suffering:
- Right Understanding or Perspective
- Right Thought
- Right Speech
- Right Action
- Right Livelihood
- Right Effort
- Right Mindfulness
- Right Concentration

१ यो जात एव प्रथमो मनस्वान्
देवो देवान्कृतुना पर्यभूषत् ।
यस्य शुष्माद्रोदसी अभ्यसेतां
नृणां स महा स जनासु इन्द्रः

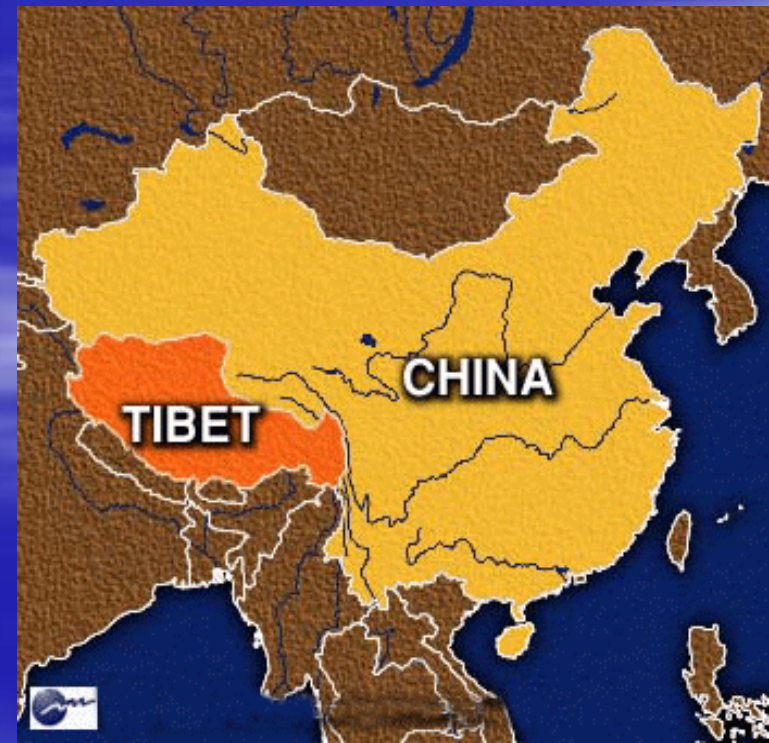


How did Buddhism Spread?

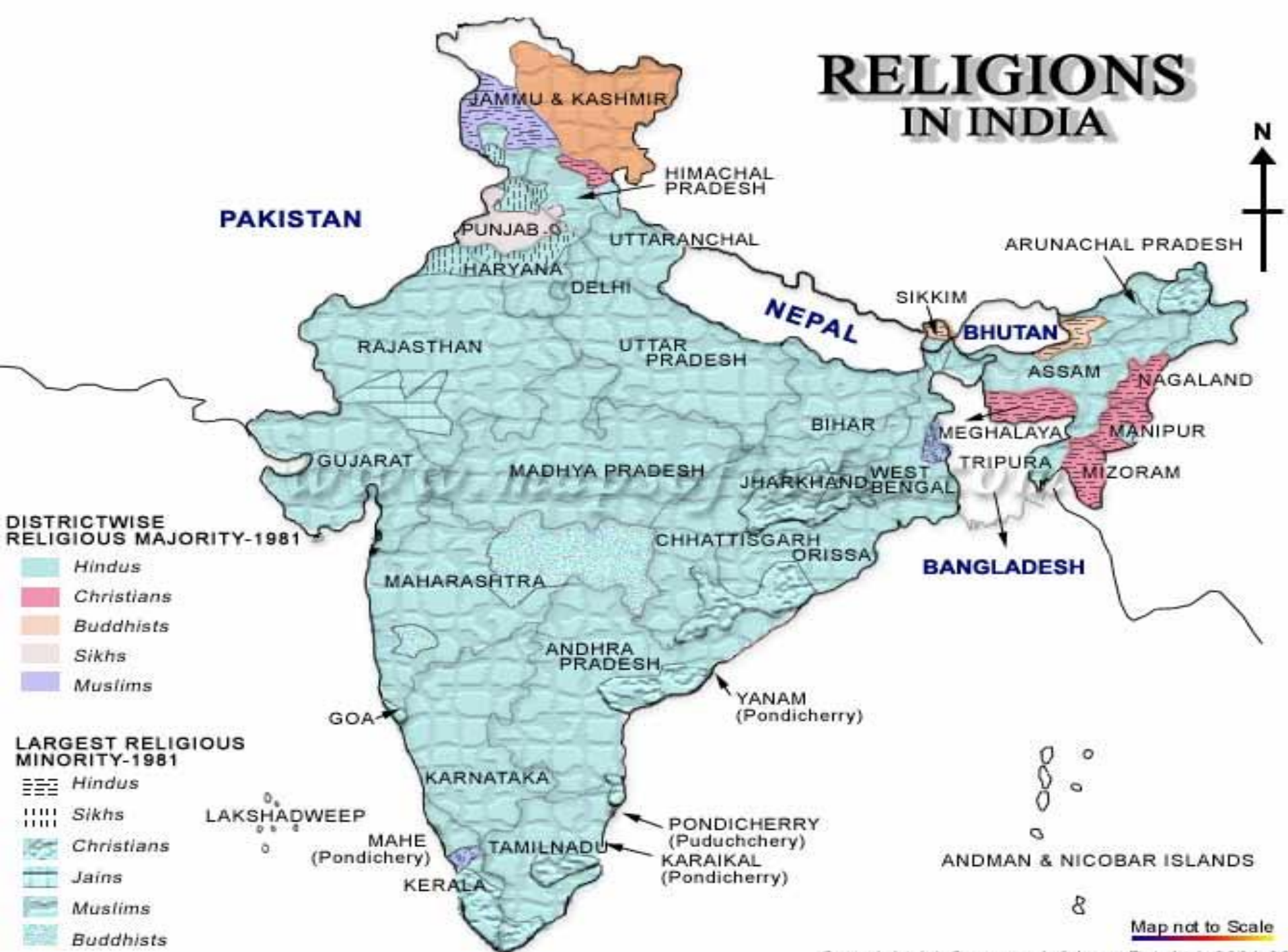
- Monks and Nuns, like apostles, spread Buddha's teachings.
- Became very popular in East Asia, China, Japan.
- Also spread through **trade** with China, Korea, Japan.
 - Main religion of China and Japan today.

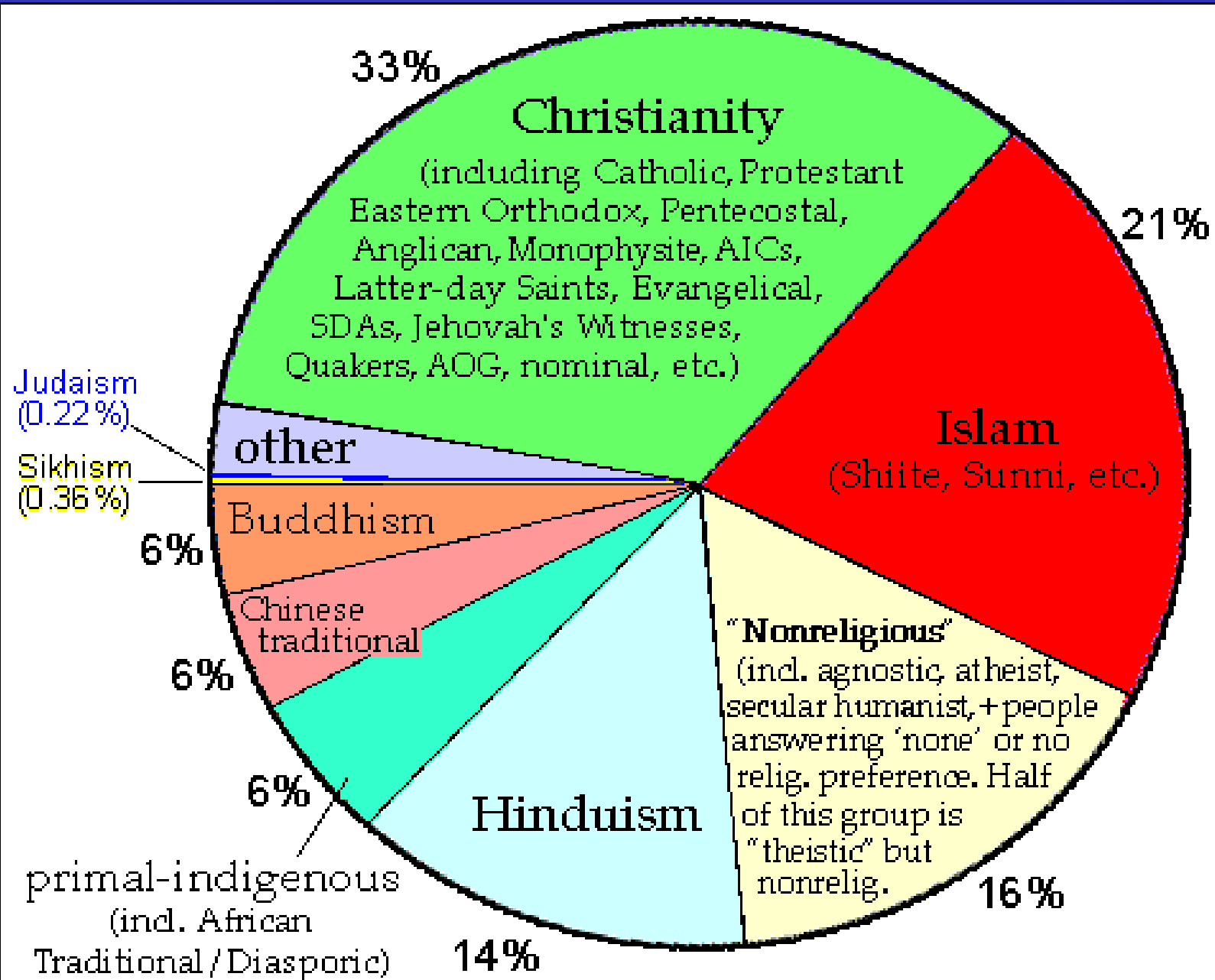


Tibetan Buddhist Monks



RELIGIONS IN INDIA





NOTE: Total adds up to more than 100% due to rounding and because upper bound estimates were used for each group.

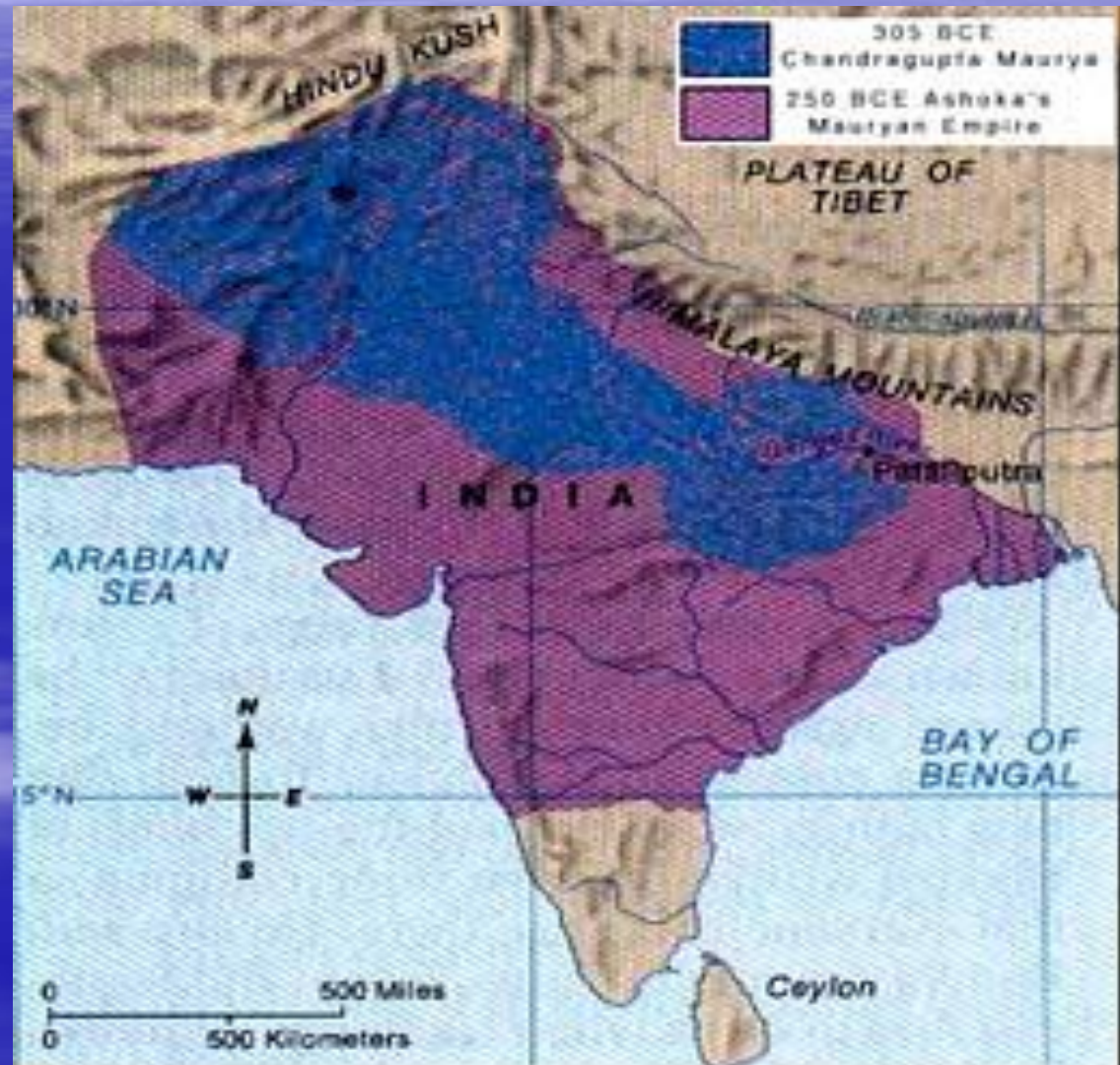
India Becomes an Empire

- India began as many small kingdoms.
- 321 B.C.E, India was united under the **Mauryas**.
- 269 B.C.E **King Ashoka** slaughtered over 100,000 in 1 battle to expand the Indian empire to the whole continent.
 - Decided to use Buddhism as a peaceful way to unit India...by forcing it on people.



The Mauryan Empire

- First family to unite India.



Buddhism Brings India Back Together

- Ashoka felt guilty about killing so many people.
- Began studying Buddhism, became a great ruler.
 - Spread teachings of Buddha to Sri Lanka, Japan and China.
 - Tolerated other religions (Hinduism later came back)
 - Became a humane ruler, vegetarian
 - Improved India during a time of peace

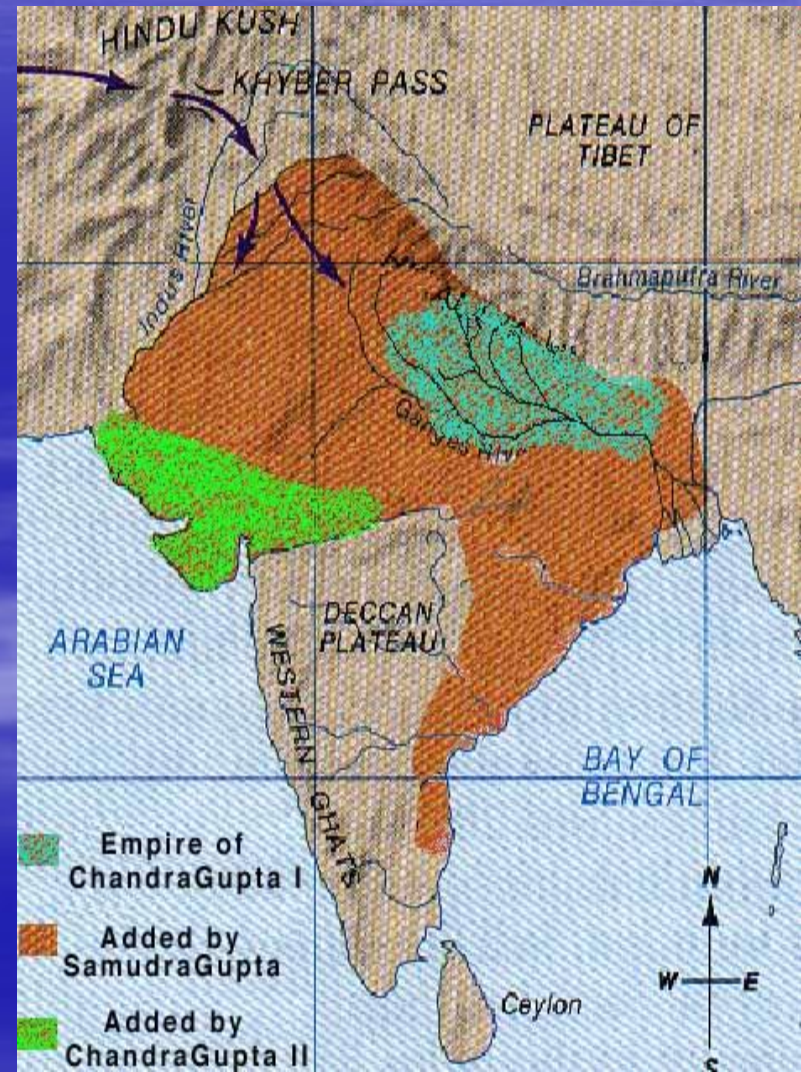


Ashoka's Edicts

- **Buddhist Values:** All people in India were supposed to be kind and loving, nonviolent (also prevented rebellions)
- **General Welfare:** All people were to be cared for (keeps people happy, not rebelling)
- **Justice:** Fair laws and kind treatment of prisoners.
- **Security:** Ashoka would “nicely” conquer anyone who threatened India.

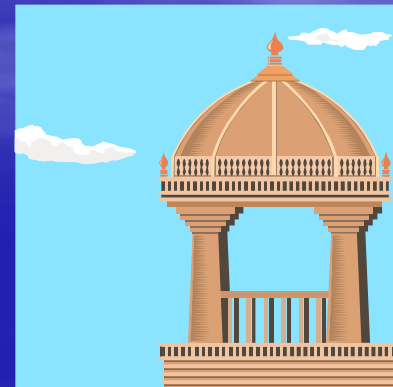
The Gupta Golden Age

- **The Guptas:** ruled India from 320 CE to 550 C.E.
 - United India from top to bottom
- Allowed conquered areas self government, leading to peace.
- Made trade safe
- Allowed Hinduism to return
- Made great achievements, like Greece.



The Golden Age of the Guptas

- Because of ruling strategy, Gupta empire was peaceful, allowing culture to thrive.
 - **Universities** (Buddhist and Hindu)
 - **Literature** (poems, stories, etc.)
 - **Painting/Sculpture** (Cross between realism and beauty)
 - **Metal working** (iron, gold, copper-especially coins).
 - **Mathematics** (for example, the decimal system).



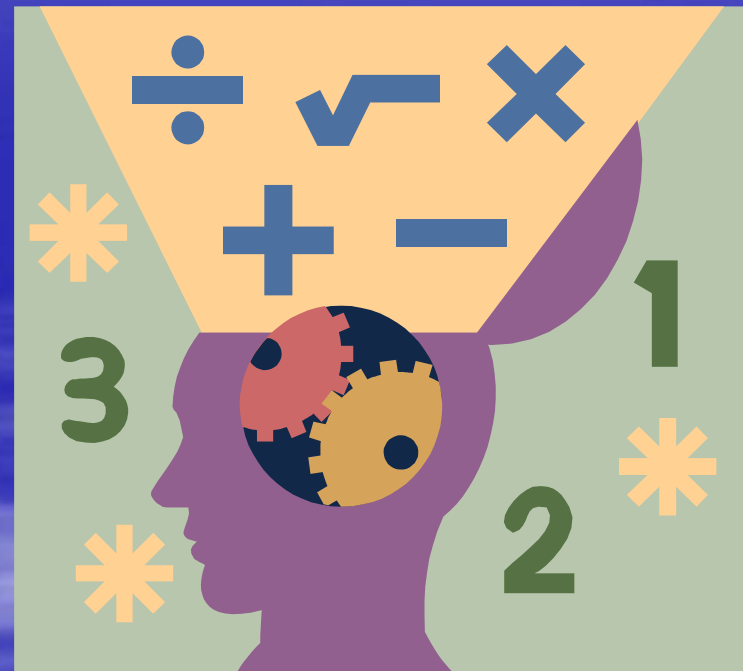
Astronomical and Anatomical Accuracy

- Guptas figured out:
 - 365 day solar year.
 - The earth is round
 - 7 day week, divided into hours.
 - 1,000 diseases
 - 500 medicinal plants
 - Vaccinations
 - Surgery including plastic surgery, injections.



Makings of Math

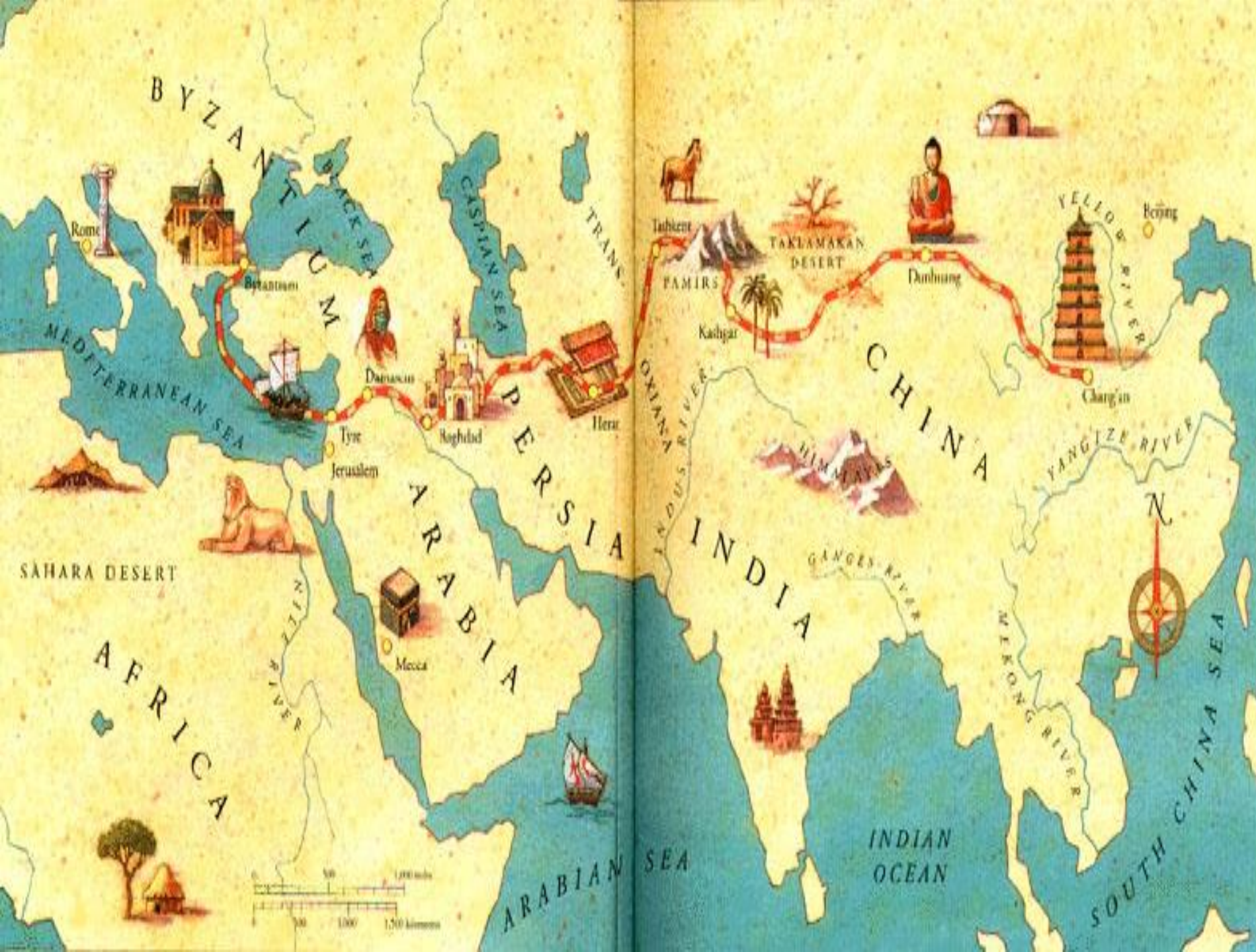
- Guptas developed the Decimal system and Arabic numbers (1, 2, 3, etc) which Muslims adopted and spread to Europe.
- Used math in the study of astronomy



The Start of the Silk Road

- Invaders from Asia told Indians about the **Silk Road: Trade route in the North stretching 4,000 miles across Asia.**
 - Used to bring silk from China all the way to Rome.
 - India in the middle of the route could buy from China and sell goods to people from Europe.
 - Built trade stations in oasis along the way.





So Much More than Silk

- India had a lot to offer for trade too.

– Spices	-Pearls
– Ink	-Gold
– Rubber	-woods
– Jewels	



- Success on the Silk Road led to spread of Hinduism, Buddhism, Indian culture.
- Indians became bankers, making loans to traders (kind of like an ATM).