

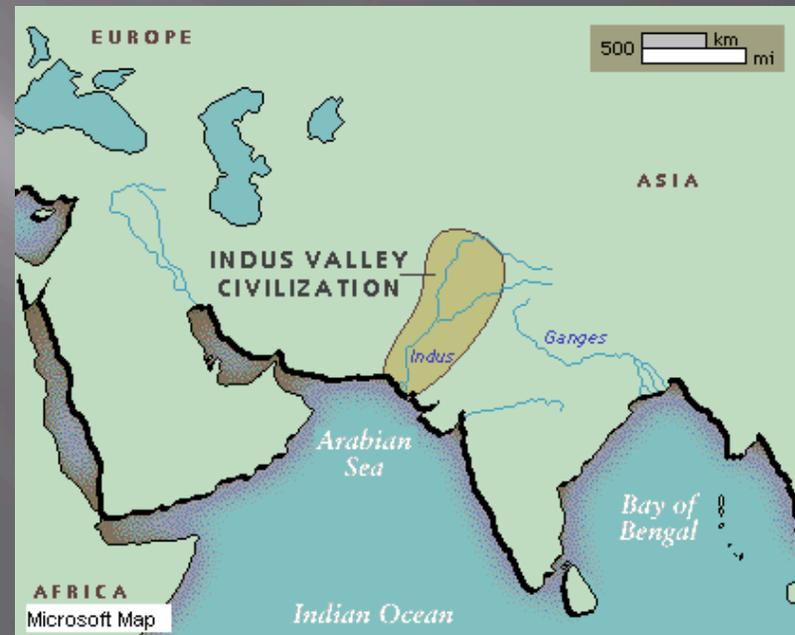
Indus Valley civilization



Indus Valley Civilization

Dravidians (native people)

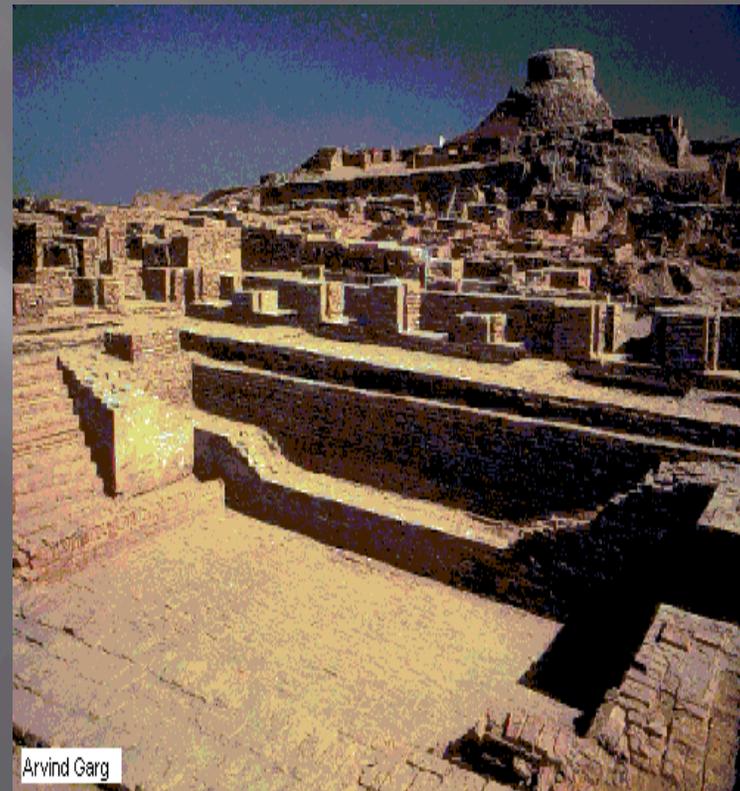
- ▣ 2500-1500 BCE
- ▣ Settled Indus River valley
 - ▣ Pakistan/Western India
- ▣ 3-season climate gave plentiful food
- ▣ Archeological digging complicated by ground water
- ▣ Language can not be deciphered
- ▣ Most writing on small "seals" (not animals)



Indus Valley Civilization

Dravidians

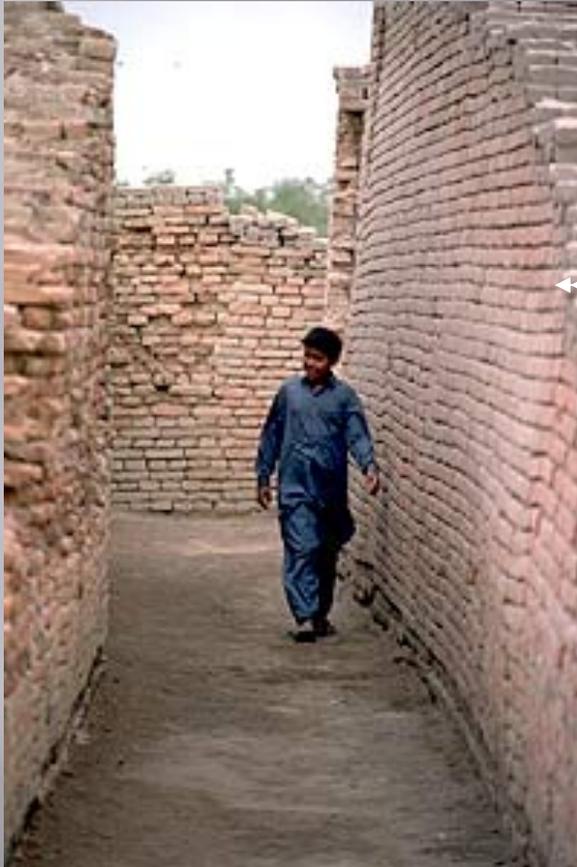
- ▣ **Cities were well planned**
 - **City laid out in grid**
 - **City probably housed over 100,000 people**
 - **Many smaller towns also in the area**
 - **Oven-baked bricks (versus sun-dried of Mesopotamia)**
 - **Sewer systems**
 - **Great baths**
 - **Unfortified**
- ▣ Religion was polytheistic
- ▣ Civilization declined over many years
 - **Isolation problem**



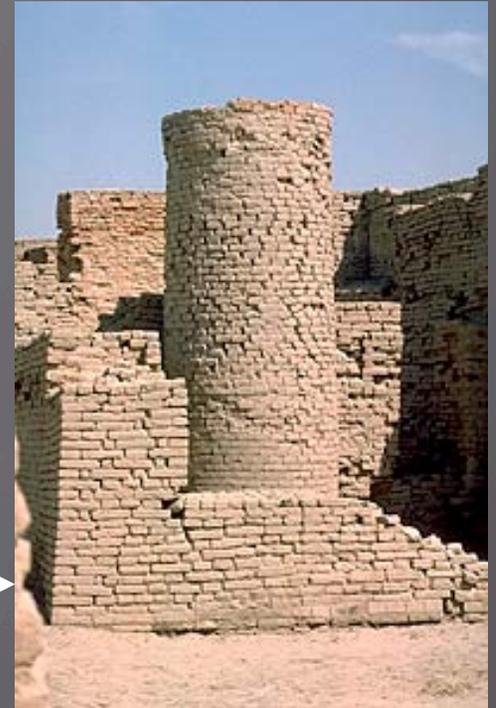
Arvind Garg

The Great Bath of
Mohenjo-Daro

Mohenjo-Daro Structures



← Street in Mohenjo-Daro



Well →

The Great Bath →



ANCIENT CHINA

- ▣ Great Wall
- ▣ Began 2000 B.C.E.
- ▣ Mandate of Heaven
- ▣ Dynasties
- ▣ Silk
- ▣ astronomy





As in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and along the Indus River, Chinese civilization began within a major river valley. Modern China itself is a huge geographical expanse. Around 4000 BCE, this huge area contained an almost infinite number of ethnic groups and languages. This history, in which a vast area populated by diverse ethnic groups became, over time, a more or less single culture, began in the **Yellow River Valley**.

Yellow River Civilization

- ▣ Ancient China was formed around the Yellow River.
- ▣ The color yellow symbolized “centrality”, as in China is the center of the world.



Chinese accomplishments

- During the Zhou and Shang periods, the Chinese made remarkable achievements in astronomy and bronzework, learned to make silk and create books, and developed a complex system of writing



Chinese invented silk



- ▣ Silk was exotic and expensive, so it was good for trading with the rest of the world.
- ▣ It is made from silk worms.
- ▣ Silk also makes “paper”

Silk worm



Chinese astronomy

- **2137 BCE** - Chinese book 书经 records the earliest known solar eclipse on October 22.
- ca. 2000 BCE - Chinese determine that Jupiter needs 12 years to complete one revolution of its orbit.
- ca. 1400 BCE - Chinese record the regularity of solar and lunar eclipses and the earliest known solar variation 日珥.
- ca. 1200 BCE - Chinese divide the sky into twenty eight regions 二十八宿 for recognitions of the stars.
- ca. 1100 BCE - Chinese first determine the spring equinox 黄赤交角.
- 776 BCE - Chinese make the earliest reliably record of solar eclipse.

In the Middle Ages the Arabs made known throughout Muslim Spain a material which was to replace all its predecessors. This was paper, whose manufacture they imported from far distant and mysterious realm of China.

The first paper appeared in China about 200 BC. Its name is derived from papyrus. Silk was transformed into paper by a process of pasting, but because silk was expensive, wool and cotton came to be used instead. This invention was attributed to Ts'ai Lun.

In the picture above, the manufacturing process used by the Chinese. They steeped mulberry or bamboo bark in water, then kneaded it to produce a paste from which they obtained smooth thin sheets of paper.



According to Chinese political theory, every dynasty goes through the so-called **dynastic cycle**:

1. A new ruler unites China and founds a new dynasty.
2. China, under the new dynasty, achieves prosperity and a new golden age.
3. The royal family of the dynasty begins to decay, corruption becomes rampant in the imperial court, and the empire begins to enter decline and instability.
4. The dynasty loses the Mandate of Heaven, their legitimacy to rule, and is overthrown by a rebellion. The Mandate of Heaven is then passed to the next dynasty

ANCIENT CHINA

Prehistory and Early Dynasties



Geography of East Asia



Neolithic “China”



- ▣ “Chinese” civilization developed around two main rivers: the Yellow (Huang He) and Yangtze.
- ▣ Around 7000 B.C.E.
- ▣ Cultivation of agriculture led to the development of urban areas.
- ▣ Yangshao and Longshan cultures.
- ▣ Development of dynasties.