

**SSWH1: ANALYZE THE ORIGINS, STRUCTURES, AND INTERACTIONS OF SOCIETIES IN THE ANCIENT WORLD FROM 3500 BCE/BC TO 500 BCE/BC**



**Element B: Describe the societies of India and China, include: religion, culture, economics, politics, and technology.**

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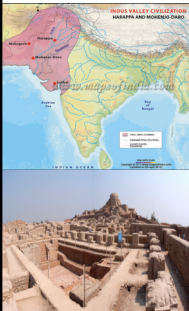
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**Ancient Indus Valley Civilization**



- ❑ Farming villages first appeared in South Asia about 3200 BCE in the fertile plain between the Indus and Ganges rivers.
- ❑ This region's climate is dominated by monsoon rains and a wall of mountains to the north and west partially isolate its people.
- ❑ Urban centers appeared about 2500 BCE with Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa being the most significant.

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**Ancient Indus Valley Civilization**



- ❑ Little is known about these early civilizations because historians are unable to read the written language of the region but urban planning in Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa indicate the presence of a strong central government.
  - The cities were elevated and surrounded by earthen walls and levees to protect them from flooding.
    - Inside the walls, the streets were laid out on a grid system.
    - Homes were constructed of baked brick, each with its own bathroom served by a city-wide sewer and plumbing system.
    - Each city had a fortified citadel in the center which likely served as the political and religious center.
- ❑ Archaeologist have found a large number of children's toys and few weapons, indicating that these societies were generally peaceful.
- ❑ The economy was dependent on agriculture with evidence of trade with the Middle East and Central Asia.

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### Ancient Indus Valley Civilization

- ❑ Urban decay, possibly brought on by earthquakes and soil exhaustion set in around 1750 BCE.
- ❑ A new group of people, the Indo-European Aryans, migrated into the region in about 1500 BCE.
  - This group eventually established the Magadha Kingdom which controlled a portion of northeast India by the second century BCE.

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### Ancient Chinese Civilization

- ❑ The farming villages between the Huang He and Yangtze Rivers of China grew into cities about 2000 BCE.
  - These urban areas both benefited from and suffered because of the rich but loose yellow silt called loess deposited by the flooding of Yangtze.
    - While the soil supported agriculture its loose nature made major shifts in the course of the river and massive floods common.
    - These struggles are recorded in Chinese legend as the Xia Dynasty whose Emperor Yu is said to have brought flood control and irrigation to China.


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### Ancient China's Shang Dynasty

- ❑ The first documented dynasty in China was the Shang Dynasty which was founded 1700 BCE.
  - This dynasty started a long tradition of governance in China that included a hereditary monarch supported by a complex bureaucracy.
- ❑ Like other early civilizations, during the Shang period urban centers were walled and surrounded by large agricultural areas.
  - While the economy was dominated by agriculture, craft production and trade were also present.

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### Ancient China's Shang Dynasty

- China developed a writing system, complex urban planning, irrigation and flood control in this period.
- This period also saw the emergence of foundational and interconnected Chinese religious principles.
  - These include concept of Yin and Yang which offered an early and enduring understanding of the universe as balanced between male and female forces.
  - Daoism, founded by Lao Tsu, asked humanity to respect and live in harmony with nature and ancestor worship venerated deceased family members in the hope that they would intercede with the powers in Heaven on behalf of the living.



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