

SSWH2 Overview

- ❑ Students will be expected to explain the development of the Classical Age societies of China and India with a special attention to the religious, philosophical, and political developments that left an enduring legacy.
- ❑ Focus should be placed on the changes and continuities each region experienced in the transition from small regional kingdoms to large multi-ethnic empires.
- ❑ Further, students are expected to explain how trade routes connected these empires to the outside world which fostered cultural, economic and technological development.

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SSWH2 IDENTIFY THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHINESE AND INDIAN SOCIETIES TO 500 CE/AD

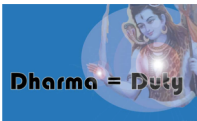


Element C: Explain the development and impact of Hinduism on India.

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Hinduism's Origins

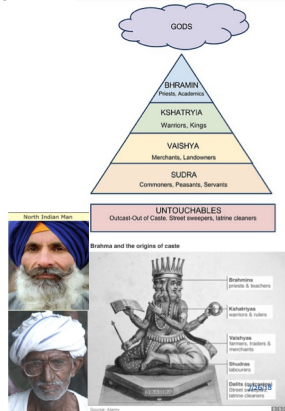
- ❑ Indo-European traditions, preserved through the "Vedas", blended with the indigenous traditions of the Dravidian population (Southern India) to create a nascent (*early*) form of Hinduism.
- ❑ These religious traditions began to formalize around 750 BCE to 550 BCE with the writing of the Upanishads.
- ❑ This faith centered on the basic belief that all living things are reincarnated after death with the quality of the next life based on the deeds ("Karma") of the individual in the previous life.
 - Humans are expected to live according to "dharma" (the principle of cosmic order) and good conduct is rewarded with an eventual release from the cycle of reincarnation called "Moksha."



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Caste System

- ❑ This faith, combined with the dominance of the Indo-European Aryans over the indigenous Dravidians led to the creation of a rigid social class system called Caste or "Varna."
- ❑ The population was divided into five hereditary social classes based on ethnicity and occupation.



Hinduism's Development

- ❑ Hinduism fully developed during the Gupta Dynasty (320 CE – 520 CE).
- ❑ During this period the hereditary nature of the occupational classes of the Caste System, patriarchy, the belief in a pantheon of Gods, a rich tradition of epic literature, and the construction of monumental Hindu architecture became commonplace.
 - These traditions, established in the Gupta Dynasty, endured for centuries among the population of South Asia.
- ❑ Hinduism's dominance in the region was challenged by the emergence of new faiths including Jainism and Buddhism in around 500 BCE.