Jainism

Founder(s) and Supporters
Mahavira (c. 550 BCE)

Doctrine
Emphasizes complete non-violence and asceticism (severe self-discipline, no indulgences, detachment from the world)

*Jinas* - spiritual conquerors who have achieved liberation and perfection

*How is salvation/enlightenment achieved?*
Reincarnation until liberation from the cycle of rebirth - avoid all bad karma; cause no harm (*ahimsa*)
Jainism

To which societal groups would this religion appeal?
Did not recognize social hierarchies - Popular among the lower castes including merchants and scholars

What are this religion’s effects on Society?
The concept of *ahimsa* (non-violence) is fundamental in Buddhism and Hinduism

Did it spread beyond India?
Very little diffusion - too difficult to observe