State, Society, and the Quest for Salvation in India

Unification in India
- India is large and diverse enough that, during its ancient and classical periods, it was not unified as a single state. Throughout much of its history, the subcontinent of India is divided into ________________ and not united under one ruler.
- In this time period, India never established a tradition of one large, ________________ state as seen in China and Persia.
- We tend to associate the subcontinent with the country of India today but keep in mind that this development is fairly recent in the big picture of history.
- The classical Mauryan and Gupta empires are short but important interludes because they laid foundations for ________________ and ________________ throughout the subcontinent and into Asia that persisted well past their dynasties.

The Mauryan Dynasty
- The first rulers to bring most of India together were the Mauryas (324 – 184 B.C.E.) led by Chandragupta Maurya.
- Mauryan India stretched from __________ to __________ and was characterized by a strong ________________ and an extensive ________________ network, which stretched all the way to Mesopotamia and the eastern parts of the Roman Empire. A key good was __________.
- Alexander the Great
  - Alexander conquered by force in northwest India, 326 BCE
  - Did not remain in India long
  - Battle-weary soldiers wanted to return home, soon left India
  - Alexander’s legacy
    - Alexander’s conquest
      - Chandragupta Maurya
    - Seized the throne of the kingdom of __________, 321 BCE
    - Began Mauryan empire
• Mauryan army
  ○ Chandragupta built an immense army of ________________ soldiers
  ○ Chariots and war ________________
  ○ Began conquering ________________ India
  ○ Extended empire
    ■ Defeated Seleucus I, 305 BCE
    ■ Mauryan empire controlled northern India by 303 BCE
    ■ Also controlled much of what is now ________________

• Mauryan Rule
  ○ Strong government
    ■ Like Qin & Han rulers, Chandragupta Maurya established a ________________ government to control the empire; crushed any ________________
    ■ Relied on a brilliant ________________ Kautilya, Brahmin / member of the priest caste
  ○ Arthasastra
    ■ A ________________ for statecraft and administrative principles, thought to be written by Kautilya
    ■ Arthasastra called for ________________ state control
    ■ Also called for the use of ________________ and even assassination
  ○ Empire divided
    ■ Chandragupta divided the empire into ________________ and districts and appointed ________________ to rule them.
    ■ His organized bureaucracy ran the government.
    ■ Spies monitored officials, gathered information, and rooted out ________________ to state

• Rule Under Ashoka (considered India’s greatest emperor)
  ○ Chandragupta gave up the throne in 301 BCE and became a Jainist monk
  ○ His son became emperor, followed by his ________________ Ashoka (268 BCE)
  ○ The Mauryan empire reached its height under Ashoka
    ■ Through warfare the empire ________________ to include most of India
    ■ Ashoka was a skilled governor who utilized a strong bureaucracy under his direct control
    ■ Established the capital at ________________
    ■ Encouraged ________________ development through irrigation,
    ■ Built roads, wells, and inns along roads to encourage ________________
  ○ Ashoka was a great warrior as a youth, known for the ________________ of his conquests
    ■ He became sickened by the violence of war after one of his greatest victories at ________________
    ■ Abandoned policy of conquest and ________________ to Buddhism
- Began to promote and spread a policy of right ____________, Buddhism
- Supported Buddhist ________________, worked to improve the lives of his people
  - Advocated ____________ and ____________, spreading those ideals throughout India by means of his **Rock and Pillar Edicts**, which were carved on rocks and pillars throughout the empire. These edicts reminded Mauryans to live generous and righteous lives.
  - Ended ____________ and required servants to be treated fairly.
  - Admired for his ____________ and wisdom
  - Sent ambassadors as far away as Greece and Egypt which increased foreign ____________ and ____________ revenue
  - Remains famous for his efforts to create ________________ between Buddhists, Hindus, and the followers of India's other religions.

- **Decline**
  - The Mauryan empire began to decline following the death of Ashoka, 232 BCE
  - Sons battled for ____________ and central control weakened
  - Distant provinces began to slip away
  - ____________ of sustaining a huge army and large administration were too heavy
  - Last Mauryan emperor was killed by one of his generals in 184 BCE
  - Mauryan empire lasted ____________ years, then collapsed

**Regional Kingdoms**
- As the Mauryan Empire collapsed, India again divided into many regional kingdoms. These kingdoms differed in the north and south.

**Bactria**
- _________ invaders from what is now Afghanistan formed Greco-Indian dynasties
- Introduced Greek art forms to India, influenced local styles
- Thriving ____________ center linking China to the Mediterranean.
- City of ____________ thrives as a strategic trading city
- **Kushan Empire**
  - Conquered much of the north during the first century CE (ended Bactrian kingdom)
  - Restored some of the grandeur of ___________ Empire to the region
  - Height in power coming under the rule of Emperor Kanishka (78-103 CE)
    - Played a crucial role in the ___________ trading network allowing merchants to travel safely across the region.
  - Kushan dynasty fell, 250 CE

**The Gupta Dynasty**
- Controlled the region from 320-550 CE.
- Created a ___________ empire that was less centralized than the Mauryans
- Continued to provide ___________ and ___________ – critical to the interregional trade networks of the Silk Roads (if it’s not safe, people won’t travel)
- Territory included much of the former Mauryan empire but was ___________ overall
  - Controlled every area except the Deccan Plateau and the southern tip of India
- **Chandra Gupta** (no relation to Chandragupta Maurya) and his two successors expanded the empire
- Based their state in ___________, a wealthy region in the Ganges valley
  - Capital of Pataliputra becomes the intellectual and cultural center
- Formed ____________ with powerful families
- Government was more similar to the ___________ than the Mauryans
  - Left governing in the provinces to local allies.
  - Stable empire for almost 200 years
• Stability led to ________________ and cultural expression
  ○ Indian physicians developed techniques of ________________ surgery
  ○ Astronomers determined the earth is a ________________ and rotates on its axis
  ○ Mathematicians created a Indian numerals that included a symbol for ________ that made place-value notations possible → Arab and Persian scholars would eventually adopt these as “Arabic numerals”

Science and Technology

Metallurgy
- science of working with metals
- Indian iron valued for hardness, purity
- Iron Pillar is resistant to rust

Mathematics
- most advanced mathematicians
- Developed modern math system
- First to use concept, symbol of zero
- Hindu-Arabic numerals; created by Indians, brought to Europe by Arabs

Medical Science
- Made medicines from plants
- Knew how to inject small amounts of viruses to protect against disease
- Doctors could perform surgery, repair broken bones, treat wounds

• Decline
  ○ ______________________ (nomads from central Asia) invasions from the northwest split the Gupta empire into its original regions
    ■ Defending against the White Huns cost ________________ and weakened the empire
  ○ The last Gupta rulers lost their power to regional rulers
  ○ India became a continent of many kingdoms AGAIN.
    ■ Would not be unified again until the Mughal dynasty (1526-1858 CE)