

*Arihant college of Arts,
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Bavdhan, Pune -21*

Class-FYBA

Subject-History(G1)

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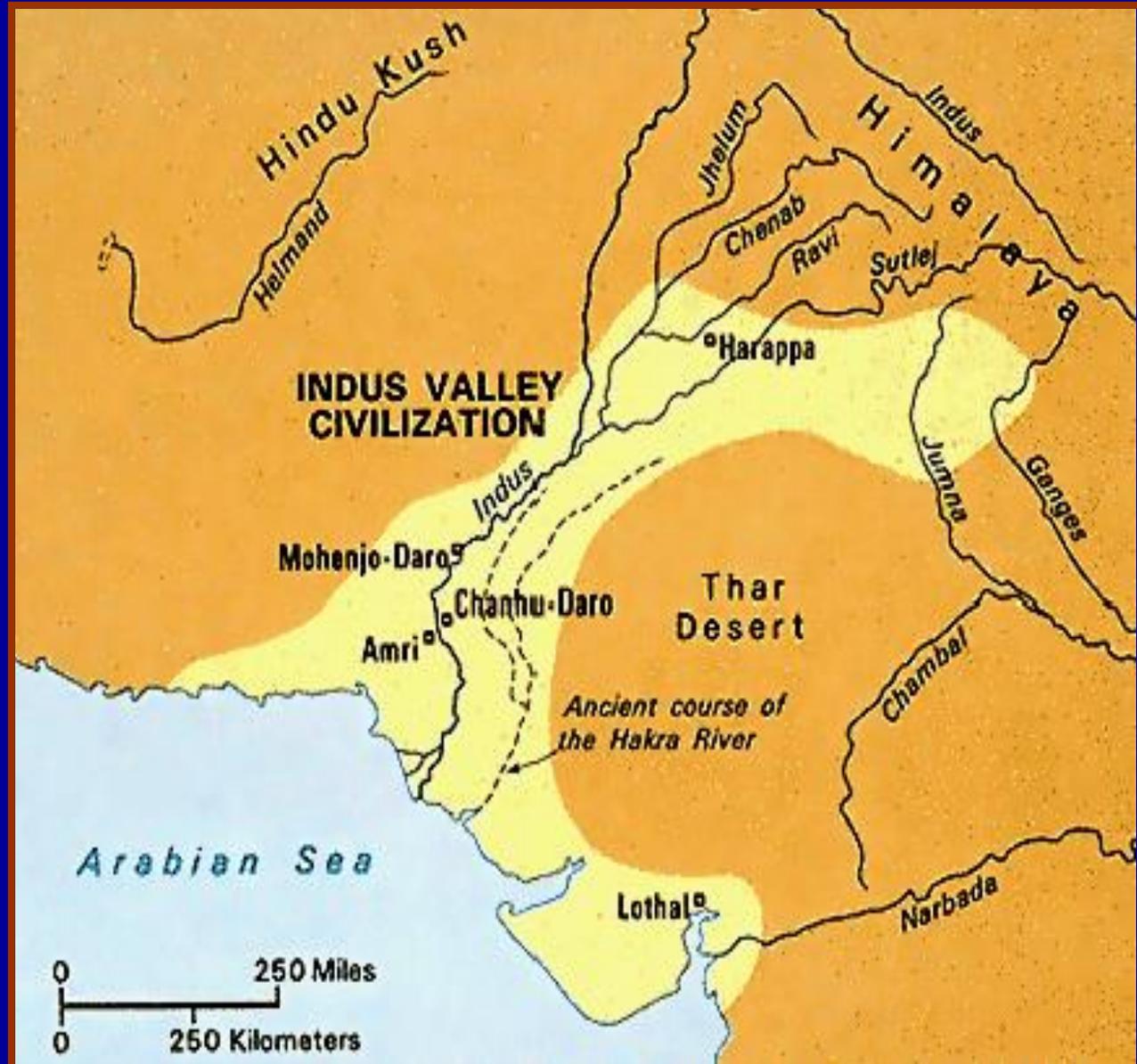
I. Introduction:

India's Geographical Setting:

- Himalayan Mountains are in the North.**
- Ghats Mountains are east & west.**
- India is a sub-continent plateau**

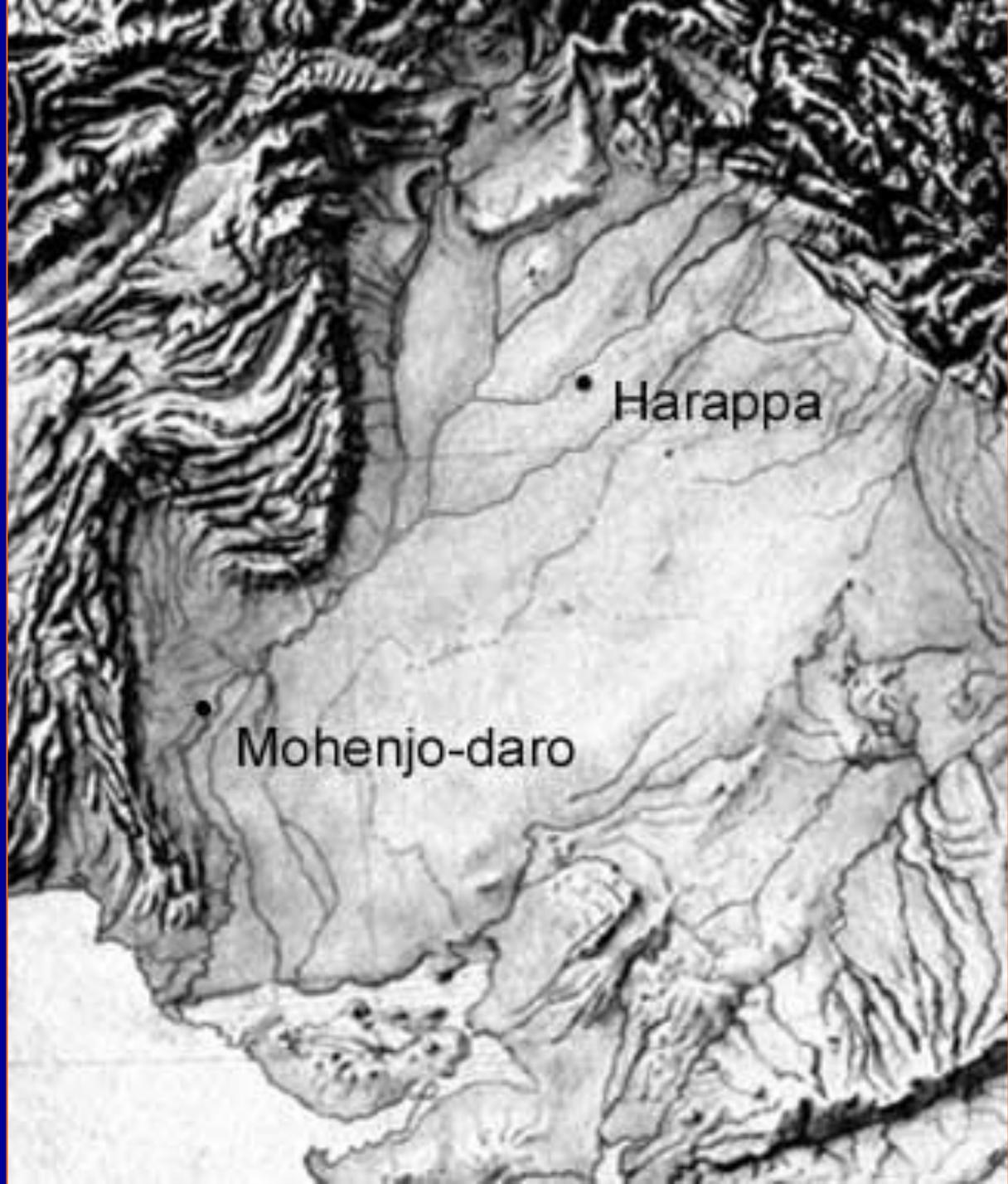
II. Indus Valley Civilization:

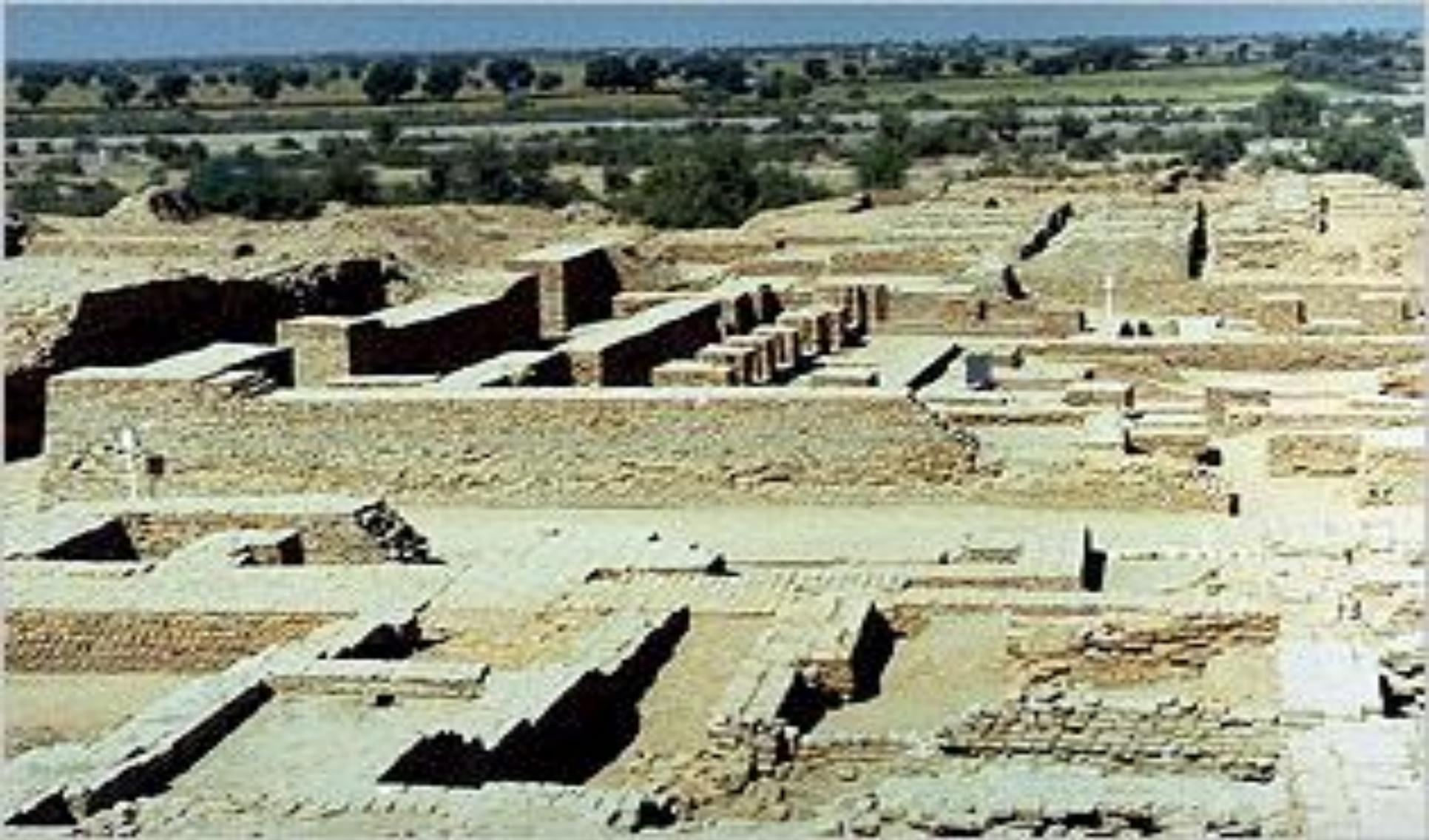
The first settlements ca. 3000 B.C.E., when farmers settled along the Indus River in what is now Pakistan.



By 2500 B.C.E.
the entire
region was
dominated by
two cities
called;

Harappa and
Mohenjo-Daro



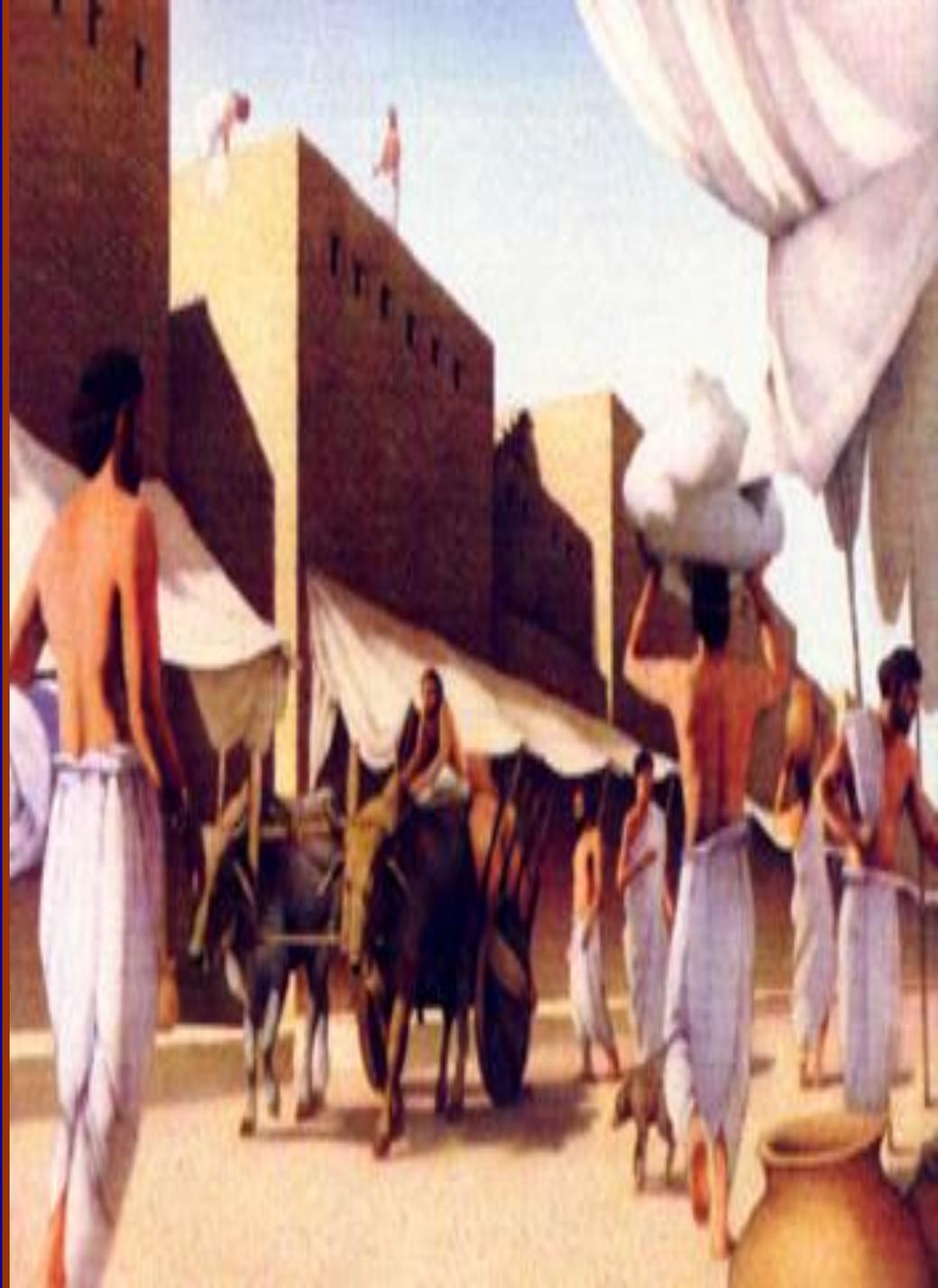


Harappa-Mohenjo Daro

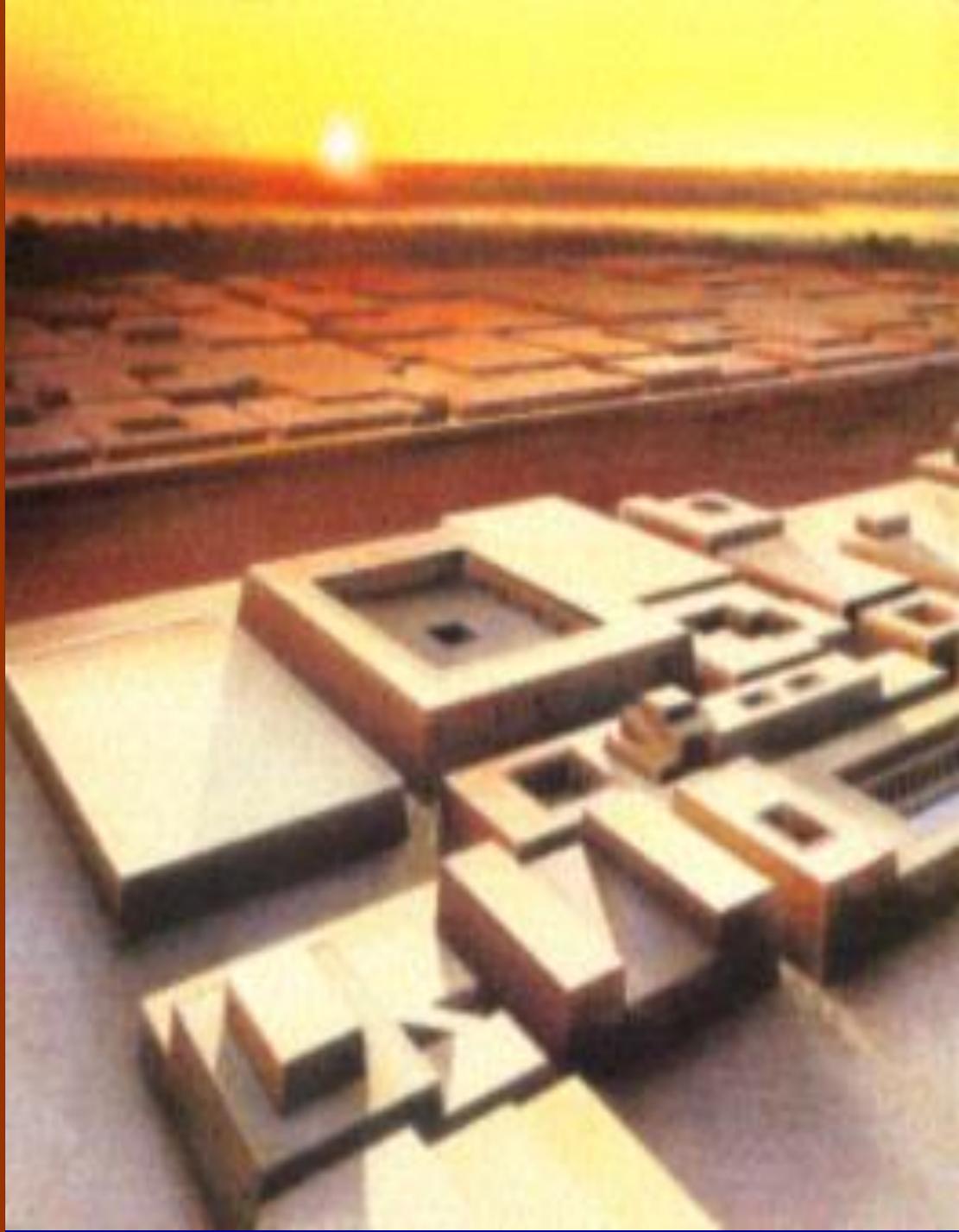
Political

Structure:

Villages & cities were never politically united; however, they did share a common language & culture.



This is very
similar to
Mesopotamia
and China.
Region was
united only by
trade.



Indus Valley Achievements:

- Writing system



• *Trading Seals*

Writing developed from earlier trading seals, which had the merchants name and symbols of trade items.



Terra Cotta Trade Seals.



- Peaceful items like toys jewelry.

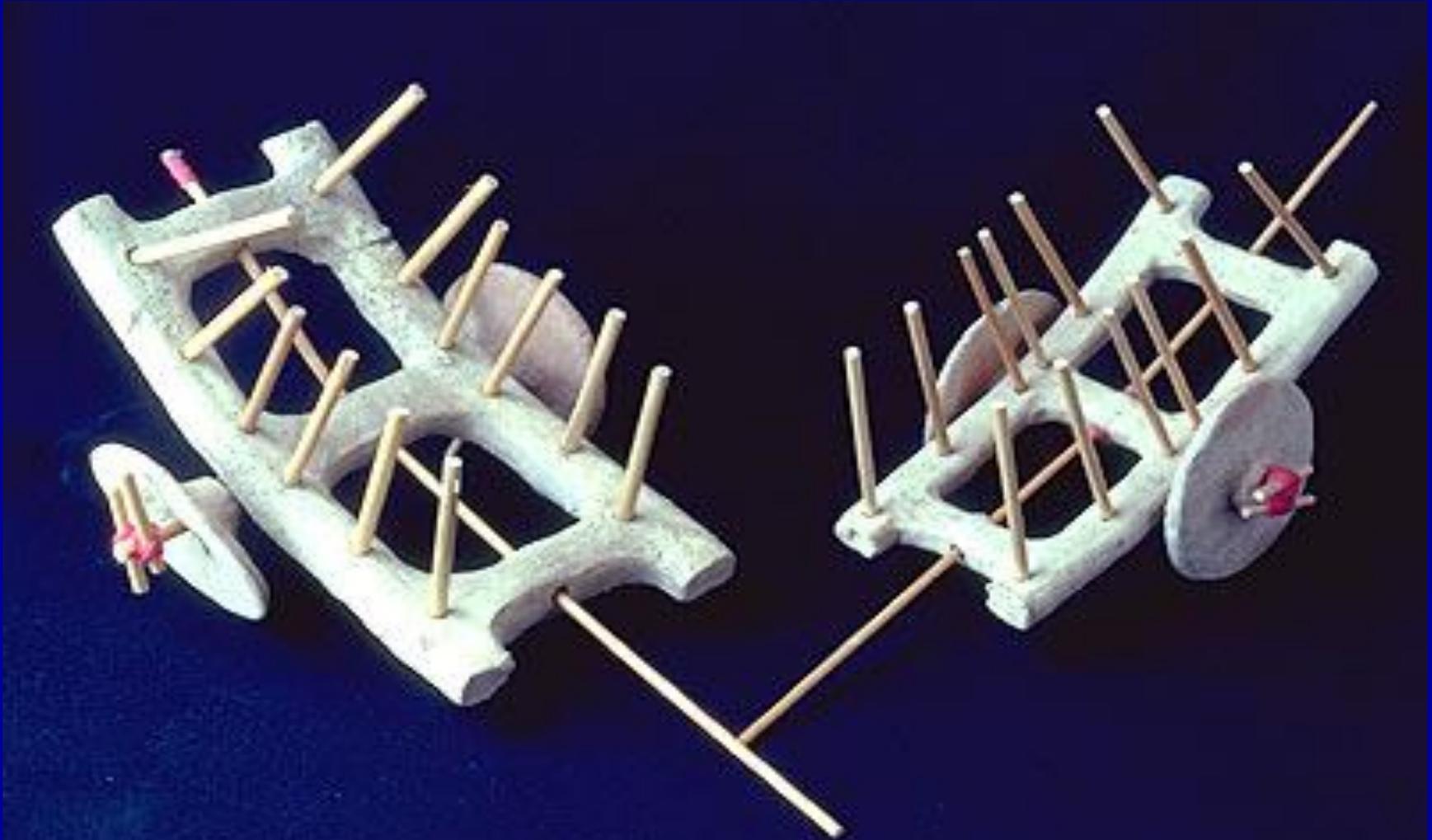
(Terracotta toy cow with Moveable head.)



Jewelry
made of
gold, agate,
jasper, and
garnets.

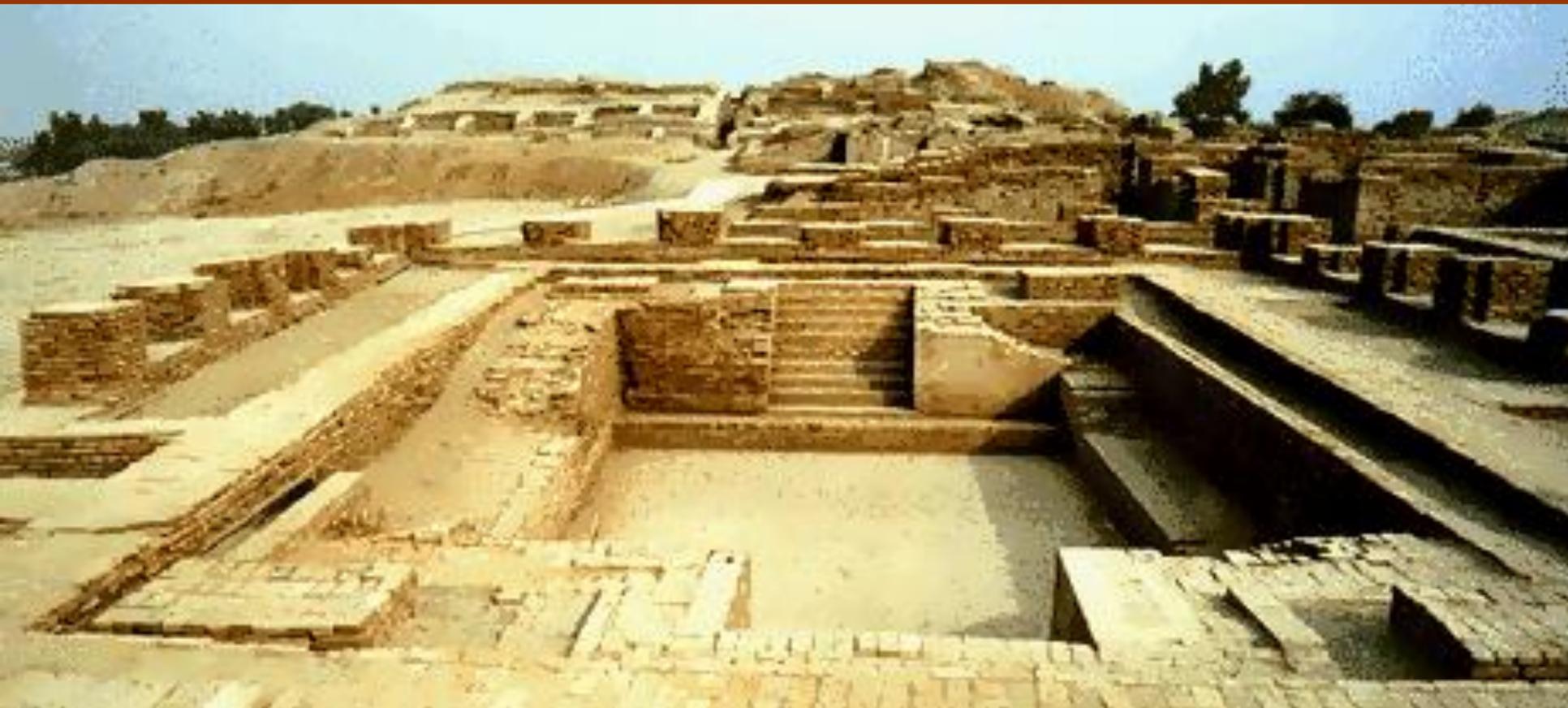


- Wheel technology ca. 2300-2200 B.C.E.



Religious beliefs:

- Great Bath Tanks were used for the purification of the body & soul.



- Religion beliefs were centered on the idea of an afterlife, thus bodies were buried with personal items.



• **Hump-**
back bull;
Symbolized
leader,
whose
strength
protects the
people



III. Aryan invaders:

Around 1500 B.C.E., the Indus culture were conquered by the Aryans.



- The Aryans were a nomadic people who migrated into the Indus Valley from central Asia (Russia.)
- They introduced iron and the horse chariot to India.



- The Aryan tribes settled in different regions of northwestern India.
- The tribes were called *Gana* (meaning “collection” of peoples).
- The chief of each tribe was an hereditary job. He had final say on decision; but had to listen to a committee of the people.

2. A new language
(Sanskrit/Hindi); and literature.

The Vedas “Books of Knowledge”:

A collection of poems & sacred hymns, composed around 1500 B.C.E., that describes the beliefs & daily life of the Aryans. The period of 1500 – 1000 B.C.E. is called the *Vedic Period*.

The Ramayana & The Mahabharata:

Two Aryan epics written around 1000 B.C.E. They are stories about Aryan life, and wars during this period. The period from 1000 – 500 B.C.E. is called the *Epic Period*.

- The Ramayana tells the story in which the (good) king Rama kills the (evil) pre-Aryan king Ravana.

IV. Hinduism:

- The Origins of Hinduism are unknown, going back to the early Bronze or Neolithic period.
- Hinduism was not inspired by a single individual or event. It is a combination of several religious beliefs, traditions, & gods of ancient India.
- Although Hindu gods are referred to as different aspects of a single deity, Hinduism is still considered the last of the polytheistic beliefs.

Hindu deities:

Brahma, the “Creator”

Vishnu, the “Preserver”

Siva, the “Destroyer”



The Upanishads:

- Literature composed between 800 B.C.E. and 500 B.C.E. Written in Sanskrit. It provides several concepts fundamental to Hinduism

Hindu Terms:

- *Dharma* – set of religious and ethical duties to which each creature in the universe is subject
- *Karma* – the effects of the activities on its atman

- *Atman* – the soul of each individual
- *Samsara* – reincarnation, the soul passes through a series of bodies
- *Nirvana* – release from worldly life and unification with the universal spirit (called Brahman)

V. The Caste System:

- A collection of 1028 verses of poetry, called the “*Rigveda*” introduces the mythic origins of the caste system. It also provides a rationale for this system.

- The Caste System is India's rigid social stratification based on Religion.

Social division of the Caste System:

- ***Brahmins*** - Priests/Rulers
- ***Kshatriyas*** - Warriors
- ***Vaishyas*** - Merchants
- ***Shudras*** - Farmers
- ***Untouchables***; Non-Aryans

Reasons for the caste system:

- It was an attempt by the upper class to freeze the economic system.
- It was imposed by a coalition of priests and warrior-kings to maintain control over the local population.
- It was created as an alternative to open slavery.

The End.