

# Chapter 4: Early Migrations of Indo-European Peoples

## Section 2: The Indo-European Migrations and Early Vedic India

**Directions:** Read the entirety of the above section, including any additional text selections such as “Eyewitness” or “Sources from the Past” and examine all maps, charts, images, and diagrams. As you read and learn, complete the questions and tasks below to both demonstrate and preserve what you have learned.

### The Indo-European Migrations and Early Vedic India

➤ **Aryans & Dravidians:** Each of the following statements describes one of the two groups. Simply write one or the other in the space to the right.

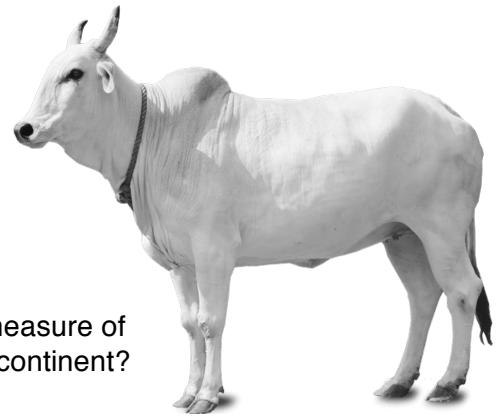
Indigenous Inhabitants of Indian Subcontinent	
Migrated slowly to the subcontinent around 1500 BCE	
Spoke an Indo-European language	
Spoke a non-Indo-European language	
They were originally pastoral nomads	
Their name means “noble people”	

- Some person who is not reading closely is like, “Yo, I bet this is why the Indus Valley Civilization (aka Harappan Civilization) collapsed! These Aryan dudes, Indo-Europeans whatever you call them, probably came in and like killed them and took over!” Identify two points of information **from the text** that conflict with, and thereby disprove, the above claim.
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### The Aryans and India

#### ❖ The Early Aryans

- Define cattle:
- Possession of horses gave the early Aryans an advantage because:
- Why do you think cattle, rather than horses, became the main measure of wealth in Aryan society once they began living in the Indian subcontinent? Use information from the text to support your answer.



#### ❖ The Vedas

- The Vedas are:
- Originally preserved through **WRITING** or **MEMORIZATION & ORAL TRANSMISSION**
- Composed in language of **SANSKRIT (formal/sacred)** or **PRAKRIT (informal/common)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

- Earliest and most important Veda = **RIGVEDA SAMAVEDA YAJURVEDA ATHARVAVEDA**
- Date Range for Composition = \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- Date Recorded in Writing = \_\_\_\_\_
- Periodization: 1500 BCE-500 BCE known as the \_\_\_\_\_ Age

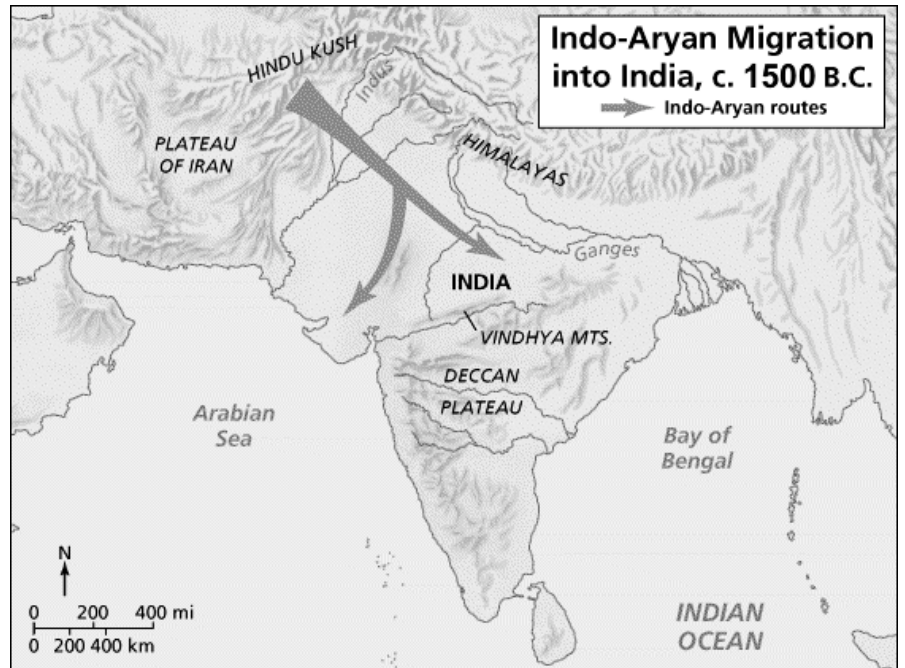
❖ **The Vedic Age**

- Aryans called indigenous Indians “\_\_\_\_\_,” meaning:
- Raja =
- Aryans often came into conflict with
  - a. Dravidians
  - b. Other Aryans
  - c. Both
  - d. No One

❖ **Aryan Migrations in India**

- First fill in the dates for when Aryans migrated to the regions listed below. Then, based on the descriptions in the text, label the map to the right with corresponding numbers.

1. Punjab  
\_\_\_\_\_ BCE
2. Ganges Valley  
\_\_\_\_\_ BCE
3. Deccan Plateau  
\_\_\_\_\_ BCE



- How did iron technology expand options for the Aryans?

❖ **Changing Political Organization**

- Identify key features of these two different forms of political organization from the Vedic Age

<b>Republics</b>	<b>Kingdoms</b>

## Origins of the Caste System

➤ The Caste System is a system of social \_\_\_\_\_

➤ The word “Caste” itself comes from:

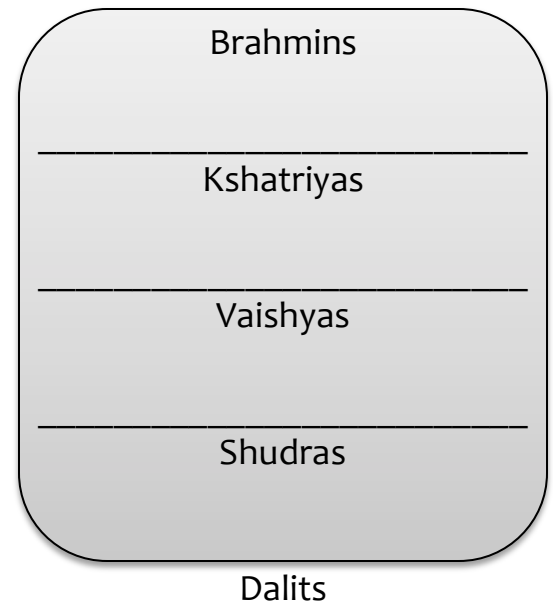
### ❖ Caste and *Varna*

- Three basic social groups of Aryan society before coming to India (this should sound familiar)
  - 
  - 
  -

➤ The word used by Aryans to divide the classes was \_\_\_\_\_, meaning \_\_\_\_\_, suggesting that:

### ❖ Social Distinctions in the Later Vedic Age

- Define each of the four Varnas (and a fifth category) in the chart to the right.
- Which of the four Varnas does not line up with the three Aryan social groups? What do you think might be going on here? Who might be making up the bulk of that group?
  
- Who is calling the shots when it comes to the “proper” understanding of the Varnas? Which group is said to be at the top? What do you think is going on here?



### ❖ Subcastes and *Jati*

- What is the difference between Varna (Caste) and Jati (Subcaste)?



➤ In what kinds of ways did the Caste System regulate society and social interactions?

### ❖ Caste and Social Mobility

- Define social mobility:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

- Was it possible for individuals or groups to modify their position in the Caste hierarchy? Explain.
- OPINION: Do you think the Caste System was a positive or negative force in Indian society? Why?

### **The Development of Patriarchal Society**

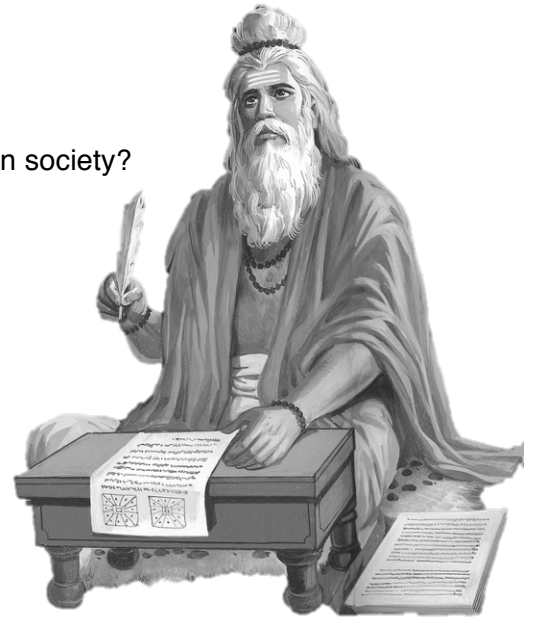
- Make a bulleted list of patriarchal features of Indo-Aryan society:

#### ❖ **The *Lawbook of Manu***

- What did the Lawbook of Manu teach about the role of women in society?

#### ❖ **Reverberations of Urbanization and the Creation of Patriarchy**

- Think back to what you learned about the Harappan civilization and compare them with the Aryans in terms of the relative importance they placed on war. Which society do you think was more patriarchal, and how is war connected?



#### ❖ **Sati**

- Sati is a practice in which:

- “Sati was commonly practiced throughout Indian history.” True or False? Explain briefly.