

Chapter 8

HERITAGE OF SOUTH ASIA



The God Krishna Krishna is a god, revered by Hindus throughout South Asia. In this painting, he is shown surrounded by women playing musical instruments. Hindus believe that Krishna once lived on Earth as a great warrior and king. Stories about his brave deeds are very old, like many other aspects of South Asian culture. **Fine Art** Based on this picture, how do you think Hindus view the god Krishna?

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- 1 Religious Traditions
- 2 Powerful Empires
- 3 Patterns of Life
- 4 India Under British Rule

One day, Bhṛigu Varuṇa approached his father. “Father,” he asked, “can you please explain to me the mystery of brahman?” (To Hindus, brahman is the supreme force of the universe.)

His father replied, “Seek to know brahman through meditation.” Only through thoughtful, focused prayer, he said, can a person come to “know” brahman.

Bhṛigu prayed, but enlightenment did not come. He returned to his father, who simply repeated: “Seek to know brahman by prayer.”

Years went by. Then one day, Bhṛigu had the highest vision. He saw the brahman and himself united as a single formless, nameless, limitless being. He now understood the Hindu belief that brahman underlies the universe. Everything else—food, life, mind, reason—is not real.

The story of Bhṛigu appears in the Upanishads. These sacred Hindu texts originated more than 2,500 years ago. In dialogues and

stories, they explain the basic ideas of Hinduism, the religion of most Indians.

CHAPTER PERSPECTIVE

In this chapter, you will learn how two world religions—Hinduism and Buddhism—developed in South Asia. Over thousands of years, many invaders swept into South Asia. They brought their own beliefs and ideas, adding to the cultural diversity of this region.

As you read, look for these chapter themes:

- ▶ India is the birthplace of Hinduism and Buddhism.
- ▶ Powerful empires united parts of South Asia, but invaders and local rulers often competed for power.
- ▶ Throughout India's long history, local cultures blended with those brought by invaders.
- ▶ The caste system, the village, and the family were the basic social units shaping the lives of ordinary people.
- ▶ British colonial rule changed the political, economic, and social structure of South Asia.

Literature Connections

In this chapter, you will encounter passages from the following works.

The Upanishads

The *Ramayana*

Shakuntala, Kalidasa

Memoirs of an Indian Woman, Shudha Mazumdar

For other suggestions, see Connections With Literature, pages 804–808.

1

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

FIND OUT

- What are the basic Hindu beliefs?
- How are Hinduism and the caste system linked?
- How are Hinduism and Buddhism both similar and different?
- How did Buddhism spread to other parts of the world?

Vocabulary brahman, sect, atman,
✓ reincarnation, karma, dharma,
nirvana

“We worship all the Hindu gods, but our family god is Lord Venkateshwara,” says Bhama Pandurang of southern India. “It is hard to explain just why a god is a family god to one family and not to another. It is inherited, and our family has worshipped Lord Venkateshwara for generations.”

Bhama explains that her family sets aside a room in their house to honor the god. An altar bears a picture of Lord Venkateshwara and statues of other gods. Oil lamps burn constantly nearby. Each morning, family members pray before the altar.

Hindu customs vary greatly across the Indian subcontinent. Hinduism developed over thousands of years. It absorbed the beliefs of many different peoples. Its many gods and practices are diverse. Underlying this diversity, however, are some common beliefs.

Basic Hindu Beliefs

Hinduism is the chief religion of India. Unlike most other world religions, Hinduism has no founder or formal church. Its roots lie in ancient Aryan beliefs and practices. Over thousands of years, those beliefs and practices changed.

Hinduism is a way of life. Today, as in the past, it shapes and unifies much of Indian culture.

Sacred texts. Hindu beliefs are recorded in sacred texts. The most important texts are the Vedas and the Upanishads (oo PAN ih shadz). For Hindus, the Vedas contain eternal truths that were revealed to wise men. The Upanishads help to explain the ideas contained in the Vedas.

Hindu ideas appear in other ancient writings such as law codes and epics, or long narrative poems. The *Ramayana* (rah MAH yuh nuh) and the *Mahabharata* (muh HAH bah rah tuh) are the two most famous Hindu

epics. You will read more about these poems in Chapter 10.

Brahman. Hindus worship thousands of gods. Each god is part of a single supreme force called brahman. Hindus believe that only a few people can truly understand brahman, which is nameless, formless, and unlimited. The many gods of Hinduism give brahman a concrete form that is more understandable to the average person. (See Connections With Literature, page 805, "Taittiriya Upanishad.")

The three main gods of Hinduism are Brahma, Vishnu, and Siva. Brahma is the creator, Vishnu is the preserver, and Siva is the

Bathing in the Ganges Hindus consider the Ganges River holy and pure. To bathe in its water, Hindus travel from all over India to such holy cities as Allahabad and Benares. Many pilgrims take bottles of Ganges water home with them to use in family worship. **Comparing** Why do you think peoples of many different religions make pilgrimages to holy sites?



destroyer. Each of these gods can take many forms, and each also has his own family. Throughout India, different sects, or religious groups, worship one or another of these gods or their many wives and children.

Hindus believe in the unity of all life. Every person has an essential self, or *atman* (AHT muhn). This self is part of a universal soul, which is also called *atman*. The Upanishads explain:

“ The essential self or the vital essence in humans is the same as that in an ant, the same as that in a gnat, the same as that in an elephant . . . indeed the same as that in the whole universe. ”

To Hindus, *atman* and *brahman* are the same thing.

Because they believe that all things in nature are part of the same universal soul, Hindus stress the idea of nonviolence. To a Hindu, it is important to respect nature and not struggle against it.

Reincarnation. According to Hinduism, people suffer from pain and sorrow because they pursue false goals such as material riches and personal pleasure. The true goal of life, Hindus believe, is *moksha*, freeing of the soul from the body so that the soul can unite with *brahman*.

Moksha cannot be achieved in one lifetime. Thus, Hindus believe that people undergo reincarnation, or rebirth of the soul in various forms. After the body dies, the soul may be reborn as anything from a god to a flower or a snake. Each form is only temporary, however.

Karma. For Hindus, the cycle of death and rebirth continues until the individual soul achieves union with *brahman*. Whether a soul gains this release is governed by the law of *karma*.

Karma comes from a Sanskrit word meaning “to do.” The law of *karma* holds that every deed—mental or physical—in this life affects a person’s fate in a future life. In a similar way, a person’s present situation is the

result of his or her deeds in a past existence. Every good deed sooner or later results in happiness. Every evil deed sooner or later brings sorrow.

Hinduism and the Caste System

Hindu beliefs about rebirth and *karma* are closely tied to the caste system. The caste system developed in ancient times. Some scholars think that it arose when the light-skinned Aryans conquered darker-skinned non-Aryan people. Others argue that the caste system was based on occupation.

Whatever its origins, the caste system set up a strict social and religious order. A person was born into a certain caste and remained a member of that caste for life. Nothing he or she did could change that fact. (You will read more about the caste system later in this chapter.)

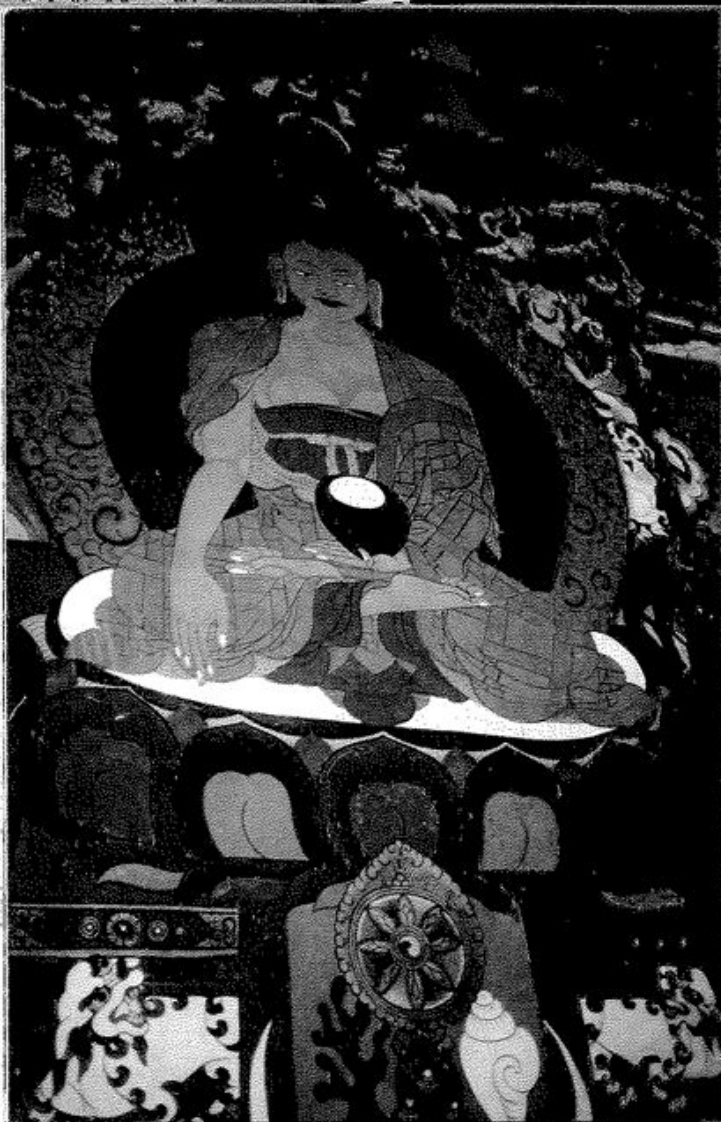
Most Hindus believe that a person’s caste is the result of *karma*. Both high-caste and low-caste Hindus accept the idea that one’s deeds in past lives are responsible for one’s present position in society. Hindus also believe that the Brahmins, the highest caste, are closest to *moksha*.

Each caste has its own *dharma*, or duties and obligations. Among these duties are obedience to caste rules as well as to moral laws. People can improve their position in the next life by carrying out their duties in this life.

Dharma influences Indian life in many ways. It provides a guide to conduct. It also offers Hindus the hope of a better life in the future. Indeed, the knowledge that their future life depends on their past deeds encourages Hindus to behave morally.

Buddhism

By about 600 B.C., the Brahmin caste had become very powerful. Brahmins claimed that they alone could perform the sacred rituals of Hinduism. Some reformers tried to limit the priests’ power. Among them was Siddhartha Gautama (sihd DAHRT uh GOWT uh muh).



The Healing Buddha Paintings of the Buddha, such as this one, often show a halo above his head to represent divine radiance. The topknot stands for the wisdom of enlightenment. This painting is in a monastery at Sarnath, India, where the great religious leader preached his first sermon.

Fine Art Why do you think this painting creates a feeling of calm and repose?

Gautama's enlightenment. Gautama was born in what is now Nepal in about 560 B.C. He was the son of a local ruler and enjoyed a life of luxury, unaware of human sorrow. In time, he married and had a son of his own.

One day, Gautama went beyond the palace walls. In quick order, he saw an old man, a sick man, a dead man, and a beggar. Their images haunted him. For the first time,

he realized that life was full of suffering and misery.

According to legend, Gautama left his family and his life of wealth and set out to find the cause of human misery. One day, after six years of searching, he sat meditating under a sacred tree. Suddenly, he achieved enlightenment. He understood the cause of human suffering—and its cure. From then on, Gautama was known as the Buddha, or “Enlightened One.” (See Connections With Literature, page 805, “Siddhartha.”)

The Buddha's teachings. The Buddha spent the rest of his life teaching others what he had learned as he sat under the sacred tree. He called these ideas the Four Noble Truths.

The first truth is that suffering is universal. Everyone suffers from pain, sickness, and death.

The second truth is that the cause of suffering is desire. People desire things such as riches and long life. However, everything in life is constantly changing. Nothing is permanent. Even pleasure causes suffering, because pleasure must end.

The third truth is that the only way to end suffering is to crush desire. If people give up desire, they can achieve nirvana, the condition of wanting nothing.

The fourth truth is that the way to end desire is to follow the Noble Eightfold Path. In the Noble Eightfold Path, the Buddha set out a practical guide to right conduct. It stressed understanding of the cause of suffering, compassion for all creatures, kindness, and truthfulness.

The Buddha thought of himself as a Hindu. Like other Hindus, he believed that salvation was achieved when the individual self escaped the body. He also believed in karma and reincarnation.

Unlike most Hindus, however, the Buddha denied the existence of any gods. He also taught that priests were not necessary. Instead, people had to seek nirvana on their own by following the Noble Eightfold Path. The Buddha rejected the caste system as well.

Spread of Buddhism

The Buddha attracted many followers. He set up monasteries and convents, where monks and nuns could devote themselves to the Noble Eightfold Path. After the Buddha's death, his followers passed on his teachings by word of mouth. In time, his ideas were written down in the *Three Baskets of Wisdom*.

Buddhism spread quickly across South Asia. Buddhist missionaries also carried the new ideas to other parts of Asia. As people in

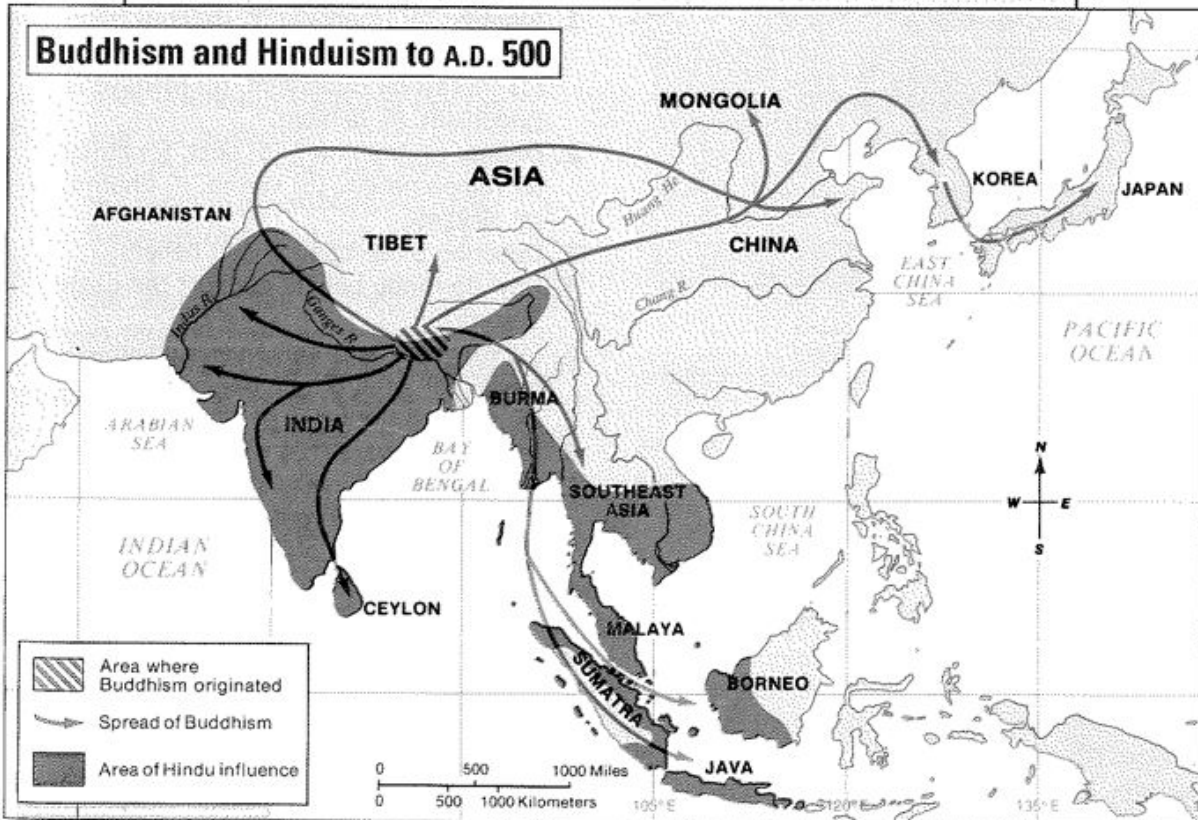
other cultures adopted Buddhism, they adapted the Buddha's teachings to their own needs. (See Chapters 11 and 15.)

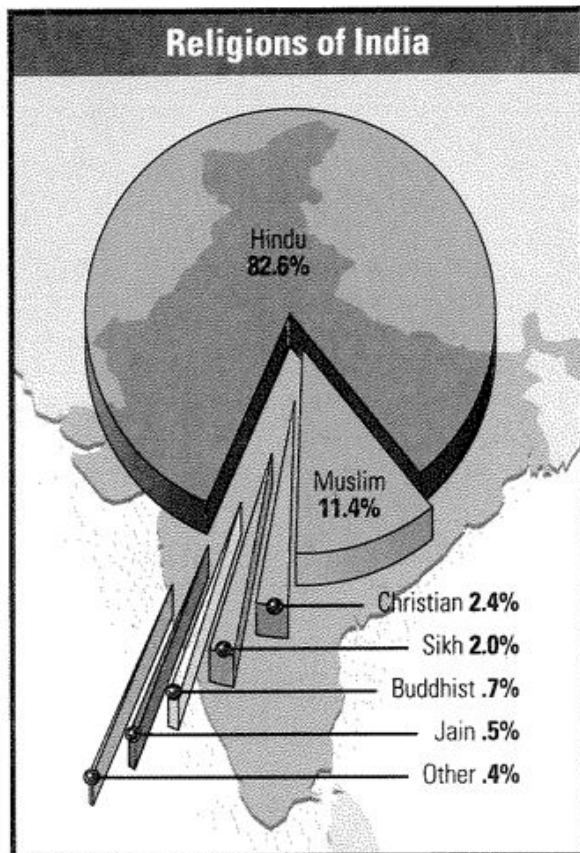
Over time, two main sects grew up within Buddhism—Theravada (ther uh VAH duh) Buddhism and Mahayana (mah huh YAH nuh) Buddhism. Theravada Buddhists stressed the monastic life as the way to reach nirvana. They respected the Buddha as a teacher but did not worship him as a god. This branch of Buddhism spread to Ceylon, Burma, and Thailand. Mahayana Buddhism spread to China, Tibet, Japan, and Korea. Its followers

MAP STUDY

Buddhism and Hinduism are two major world religions that began in South Asia. During many centuries, missionaries and traders spread these religions to other areas.

- 1. Movement** (a) Which religion spread to both East Asia and Southeast Asia? (b) Which religion did not spread into East Asia?
- 2. Region** (a) Identify the areas to which Hinduism spread. (b) Identify the areas to which Buddhism spread.
- 3. Understanding Causes and Effects** In what ways do you think the spread of these two religions affected the cultures of Southeast Asia and East Asia?





Source: *India 1990 Handbook*

Graph Skills India is the home of many religions. This religious diversity adds richness to its people's cultures. ► According to this circle graph, which religion is dominant in India? What percentage of India's population is made up of Muslims, Christians, and Sikhs?

worshipped the Buddha and other enlightened ones as gods.

Although Buddhism began in South Asia, it almost disappeared there. Hinduism is a tolerant faith, and it slowly absorbed many Buddhist ideas.

Other Religious Traditions

Other religions also developed in South Asia. Among these was Jainism (JĪN ihz um). Like Buddhism, Jainism grew out of efforts to reform Hinduism. Mahavira, the founder of Jainism, lived at about the same time as the Buddha. Like the Buddha, he rejected the

power of the Brahmans. His teachings also included Hindu ideas such as reincarnation.

Jainists emphasize *ahimsa*, or nonviolence. Mahavira taught that people should avoid harming any living creature. As a result, Jainists are strict vegetarians. A vegetarian is someone who does not eat meat. Many Jainists sweep the ground before them as they walk to avoid stepping on any living thing.

Several other religions had an impact on South Asia. As you will read later in this chapter, Muslim invaders brought the religion of Islam into the subcontinent. Over time, Islam won many converts.

In the 1500s, Sikhism emerged in South Asia. It combines features of Hinduism and Islam. About the same time, Christian missionaries began to arrive in South Asia. They, too, won converts among the peoples of the subcontinent.

SECTION 1 REVIEW

- Identify:** (a) Upanishads, (b) Four Noble Truths, (c) Noble Eightfold Path, (d) Theravada Buddhism, (e) Mahayana Buddhism, (f) Jainism.
- Define:** (a) brahman, (b) sect, (c) atman, (d) reincarnation, (e) karma, (f) dharma (g) nirvana.
- Describe three basic Hindu beliefs.
- How do Hindu beliefs support the caste system?
- (a) Why did the Buddha seek enlightenment? (b) What did he believe was the cause of suffering?
- (a) List two ways that Hinduism and Buddhism are similar. (b) List two ways that they are different.
- Analyzing Ideas** How is the spread of Buddhism an example of cultural diffusion?
- Writing Across Cultures** Speaking about Hinduism, an Indian noted: "We believe that the worst of all evils is the ego, the 'I am.' The more we can squash it, the better." Write a paragraph comparing American and South Asian attitudes toward individual wants.

2

POWERFUL EMPIRES

FIND OUT

What dynasties united large parts of India?

Why did Muslims and Hindus clash?

What were the achievements of the Mughal Empire?

How did invasions contribute to cultural diversity in South Asia?

Vocabulary dynasty, stupa, sultan

India's great epic poem, the *Ramayana*, proclaims the need for a strong king:

- 66 Where the land is kingless, the cloud, lightning-wreathed and loud-voiced, gives no rain to the earth. Where the land is kingless, the son does not honor his father nor the wife her husband. Where the land is kingless, men do not meet in assemblies, nor make lovely gardens and temples. 99

From time to time, strong rulers united the northern plain of India. More often, however, the northern plain was a battleground. Rival princes waged war with one another and with invaders who regularly swept into South Asia.

The Maurya Empire

The first ruler to unite the northern plain was Chandragupta Maurya (chuhn druh GUP tuh MAWR yah). In 321 B.C., Chandragupta founded the Maurya dynasty, or ruling family. The Mauryas ruled India for 140 years.

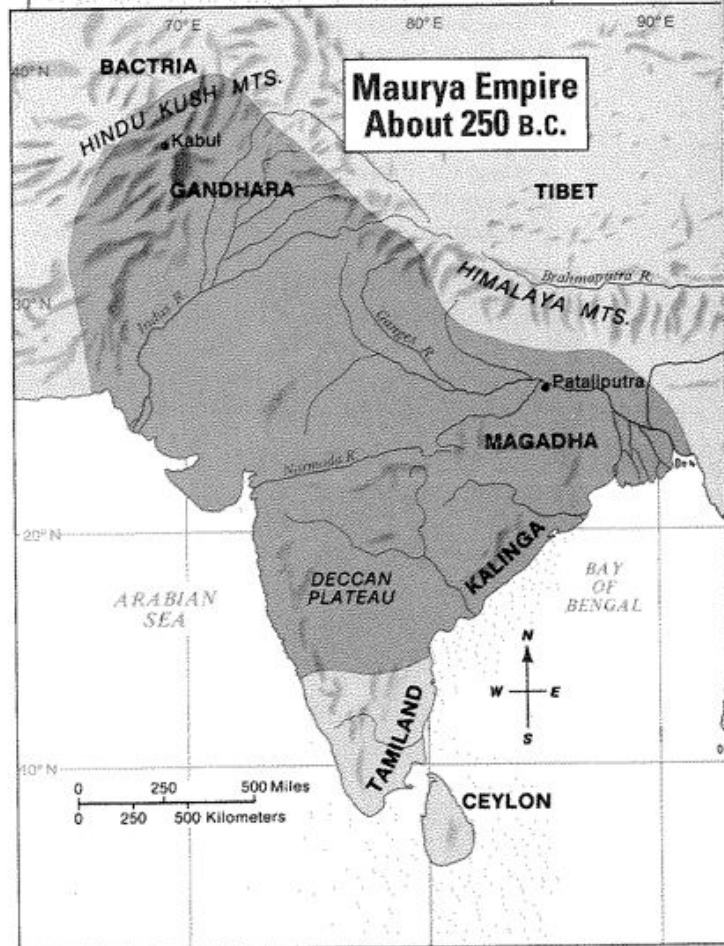
Government. Chandragupta conquered a large empire. It stretched across the northern plain from the Bay of Bengal to the Hindu

Kush. He appointed thousands of officials to help him rule. Among them were tax collectors, who took one quarter of the farmers' crops. Herders and merchants paid taxes of cattle and trade goods.

MAP STUDY

Chandragupta founded the Maurya Empire in India. The empire reached its height under the rule of his grandson, Asoka.

- 1. Location** (a) Describe the exact location of the Maurya Empire. (b) Describe the relative location of the Maurya Empire.
- 2. Interaction** What landforms in South Asia limited the expansion of the Maurya Empire?
- 3. Drawing Conclusions** How did the location of the Tamil kingdom probably affect its relationship with the Maurya Empire?

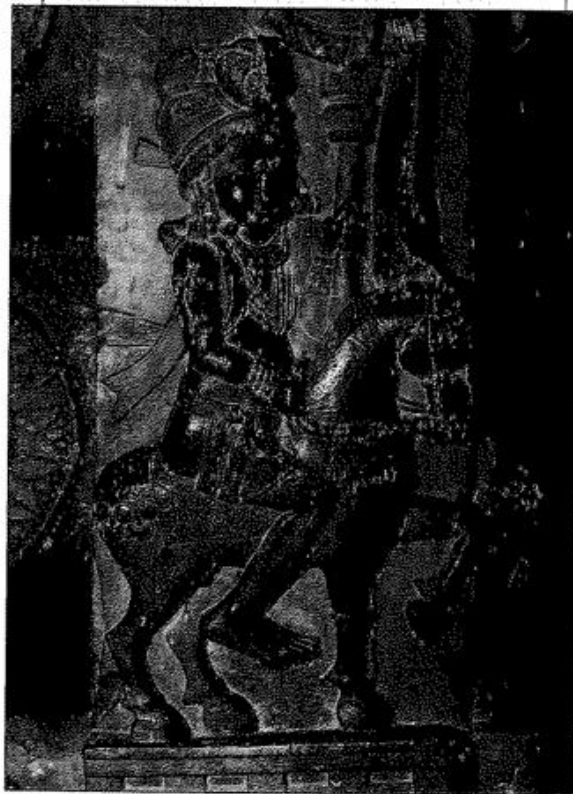


Pataliputra (pah tah lih poo trah), the Maurya capital, was a bustling city. Enclosed by a mighty wooden wall, it had 570 guard towers and 64 gates. Within the royal palace, Chandragupta protected himself against enemies. He never slept in the same bed two nights in a row, and he had someone taste his food before eating.

Under Chandragupta, the empire enjoyed peace. Trade prospered. The government saw to the building of irrigation systems and maintained roads.

Asoka's reforms. Chandragupta's successors added to his empire. His grandson, Asoka (uh soh kuh), ruled from about 269 B.C. to 232 B.C. He brought the Maurya Empire to the height of its power.

A Soldier of the Maurya Empire During the Maurya Empire, armies of well-armed soldiers conquered most of South Asia. This sculpture of a warrior dates from the 200s B.C., when the Maurya Empire reached its height under Asoka. This work of art was used to decorate a Buddhist temple built by the Mauryas. **Fine Art** Why is art an important source of information about ancient civilizations?



At first, Asoka ruled harshly. For several years, he waged wars to conquer the region of Kalinga in the south. More than 100,000 people died in the fighting. The slaughter sickened Asoka. He converted to Buddhism and renounced violence. He then set out to rule his empire kindly and without force.

Asoka encouraged unity among his subjects and urged them to be tolerant of one another. "All faiths deserve to be honored for one reason or another," he declared. "By acting thus, a man exalts his own faith and at the same time does service to the faith of others." Asoka tried to rule according to Buddhist ideals, including nonviolence and the sacredness of all living creatures. His beliefs led him to give up hunting, end animal sacrifices, and become a vegetarian. He mixed justice with mercy and worked to improve the lives of his people.

Asoka had his laws carved on rocks and pillars for everyone to see. These stone carvings reveal the thoughts and beliefs of this unusual ruler.

“All men are my children. As on behalf of my own children I desire that they may be provided by me with complete welfare and happiness in this world and in the next, so do I desire for all men as well.”

Asoka's example has influenced Indian leaders down to the present. You will read in Chapter 9 how Mohandas Gandhi, like Asoka, followed the doctrine of nonviolence.

Asoka spreads Buddhism. To promote Buddhism in the empire, Asoka ordered the building of thousands of *stupas* (stoo puhz), or shrines containing remains of the Buddha. He made pilgrimages, or journeys, to these shrines, and encouraged others to do the same. He improved the roads and built rest houses with shade trees and water for the weary pilgrims.

Asoka also worked to spread Buddhism to foreign lands. He sent Buddhist missionaries to China and Southeast Asia. His efforts helped to make Buddhism a major world religion and to spread Indian culture throughout Asia.

Small Kingdoms

The Maurya Empire declined after Asoka's death in 232 B.C. During the next 500 years, the northern plain again became a battleground. Numerous invaders pushed into the region.

The first invaders were Greeks from Bactria, a kingdom north of the Hindu Kush Mountains. They were followed by the Pahlavas from Persia and the Kushans from Central Asia. Each group brought its own customs and ideas. In time, however, their cultures were absorbed into Hindu culture.

Southern India developed separately from the north. Its people were Dravidians, not Aryans. They spoke many languages, the most widespread of which was Tamil. Hinduism spread slowly into the south. As it did, it absorbed local gods and religious beliefs and so grew even more diverse.

In the small Tamil kingdoms of the south, trade flourished. Rulers improved harbors along the coasts and exported ivory, cotton, pepper, and gems. Tamil captains took advantage of the monsoons to sail west to Arabia. Other Tamil ships carried goods to China.

The Gupta Empire

In A.D. 320, an ambitious young warrior again united the north. Taking the name Chandragupta I, he set up the Gupta dynasty. He probably chose the name Chandragupta to link himself with the ancient Maurya ruler.

The Gupta Empire lasted from A.D. 320 to A.D. 535. Under the Guptas, India enjoyed a golden age. The Guptas expanded their rule over much of northern India. They brought peace and prosperity to their empire. Trade increased, especially with China.

Achievements. Art, literature, and mathematics flourished in the Gupta Empire. On the walls of caves near Ajanta, artists painted colorful murals. The paintings illustrate Indian legends and scenes from the life of the Buddha. They also give a vivid picture of everyday life. The artists included figures of rich and poor, craftworkers and beggars, and animals and flowers of India.

In literature, Gupta writers produced fine poems and dramas. The best-known poet and



A Painting From the Ajanta Caves This detail is part of a large wall painting made at Ajanta, India, during the A.D. 400s. Here, followers of the Buddha gather to hear him speak. The artist has included monks wearing orange robes and, at top right, a horse and its rider. **Fine Art** What does this painting tell you about everyday life in India at that time?

playwright was Kalidasa. His play *Shakuntala* (shah KUHN tuh luh) is still performed today. It tells the story of a king who marries Shakuntala, daughter of a river goddess. An angry spirit puts a curse on Shakuntala, causing the king to forget her. After much sadness and suffering, the pair are finally reunited. In the following lines, the king expresses his joy upon seeing Shakuntala again:

“ Behold me, best and loveliest of
women,
Delivered from the cloud of fatal
darkness
That once oppressed my memory.
Again
Behold us brought together by the
grace
Of the great lord of Heaven. ”

In mathematics, Indian scholars developed the concept of zero and invented the decimal system, using symbols for the numbers 1 through 9. The new system let them make complicated calculations. At universities across the Gupta Empire, scholars figured the correct shape and size of the Earth. The Arabs adopted and spread the Indian system of numbers to Europe. There, these "Arabic numerals" gradually replaced Roman numerals.

Decline. As Gupta power declined, the Huns, a nomadic people from Central Asia, invaded South Asia. Their arrival marked the end of the Gupta Empire. For the next thousand years, rival Indian princes battled one another. Still, despite the turmoil, Hindu culture remained strong. The caste system and Hindu traditions gave people a sense of order.

Muslim Expansion Into India

In the mid-600s, the religion of Islam rose in the Middle East. (See Chapter 26.) In the centuries that followed, waves of Muslims swept into South Asia. They included Mongols from Central Asia, Afghans, Turks, and Persians. Muslim invaders attacked and plundered the rich cities of India. Some set up their own kingdoms.

Delhi sultans. Around 1200, Muslim rulers set up a capital at Delhi. For 300 years, these Delhi sultans, or rulers, governed much of northern and central India. Like Muslim rulers elsewhere, the Delhi sultans generally did not force their Hindu subjects to adopt Islam. Instead, non-Muslims had to pay special taxes. Some Hindus did become Muslims, however, because only Muslims could hold high-level government jobs.

Taxes on non-Muslims helped support a lavish court. The Delhi sultans introduced Persian culture into South Asia. Sultan Firuz Tughlak (fee ROOZ tuhg LAK) was a great builder. During his reign, from 1351 to 1388, he supervised the building of 30 colleges, 50 dams and reservoirs, 100 hospitals, and 200 new towns.

Mongol invasions. After the death of Firuz Tughlak, the Delhi sultanate declined. In 1398, Mongols from Central Asia descended into India. Under their leader, Tamerlane, they

attacked and destroyed Delhi. The Mongol invaders killed or enslaved the entire population of the city and carried off its treasures. After Tamerlane left India to conquer other lands, the Delhi sultans were restored. The conquest had weakened them, however, and they did not retain power for long.

In 1526, another Mongol army invaded India. At its head was Babur (BAH buhr), who claimed to be Tamerlane's grandson. Babur founded the Mughal* Empire, which you will read about shortly. It was during the Mughal Empire that Islamic civilization reached its height in India.

A Clash of Beliefs

Unlike earlier invaders, the Muslim conquerors were never absorbed into Hindu society. The differences between Muslims and Hindus were too great. Islam was based on belief in one God. Hindus worshipped many gods. Islam taught that all Muslims were equal before God. Hinduism supported the caste system, which was built on inequality.

Muslims required believers to follow strictly the laws of the Koran—the holy book of Islam. Hindus had many sacred writings and tolerated many different beliefs. To Muslims, cattle were a source of food. To Hindus, cattle were sacred animals that could not be killed.

Such differences led to conflict. Muslim armies smashed Hindu temples, destroying images of Hindu gods and goddesses. In northern India, where Muslim rule was strongest, many Hindus converted to Islam. Some wanted to escape the tax imposed on nonbelievers. Others hoped to get jobs in government. Still others wanted to escape the caste system. Farther south, where Muslim rule was weaker, few Hindus changed religion.

Despite clashes between Hindus and Muslims, the two groups slowly learned to live together. Under the Mughals, a brilliant culture emerged, blending both Hindu and Muslim traditions. A new language, Urdu (UR doo), came into use. Urdu combined Persian and Hindi and was written in Arabic script. Hindu architects designed and built mosques, Mus-

* *Mughal* is the Persian word for "Mongol."



Akbar the Great: Champion of Religious Toleration

"If men walk in the way of God's will, interference with them would be unfair," declared the Mughal emperor Akbar the Great. He was one of the few world leaders of his time to practice toleration of all religions.

Akbar could not read or write, but learned from those around him. His son wrote:

“My father always associated with the learned of every creed and religion . . . and although he was illiterate, so much became clear to him through constant discussion with the learned and the wise . . . that no one knew him to be illiterate.”

Akbar, a Muslim, invited scholars of many religions to regular Friday afternoon discussions. They included Hindus, Christians, Jains, Zoroastrians, and other Muslims. Through their debates, Akbar came to see similarities as well as differences among the religions. "Each person according to his condition gives the same Supreme Being a name," he believed.

Akbar hoped to end religious conflict by uniting the various faiths. He combined the teachings of several religions into a new religion—Din Ilahi, or "Divine Faith." Din Ilahi developed only a small following and died with its founder.

Akbar's public policies showed his belief in religious toleration. He ended the destruction of Hindu temples and gave honors to both Hindu and Muslim artists and poets.

Akbar's successors did not share his intellectual curiosity or his tolerance. They abandoned most of his reforms. As his son said, "In his actions and movements he was not like the people of the world."

1. How did Akbar overcome his handicap of illiteracy?
2. **Synthesizing Information** Read "The Mughal Empire" on pages 187–188. (a) How might Akbar's policies of religious toleration have helped strengthen his rule? (b) How did abandonment of these policies by his successors contribute to the Mughal decline?

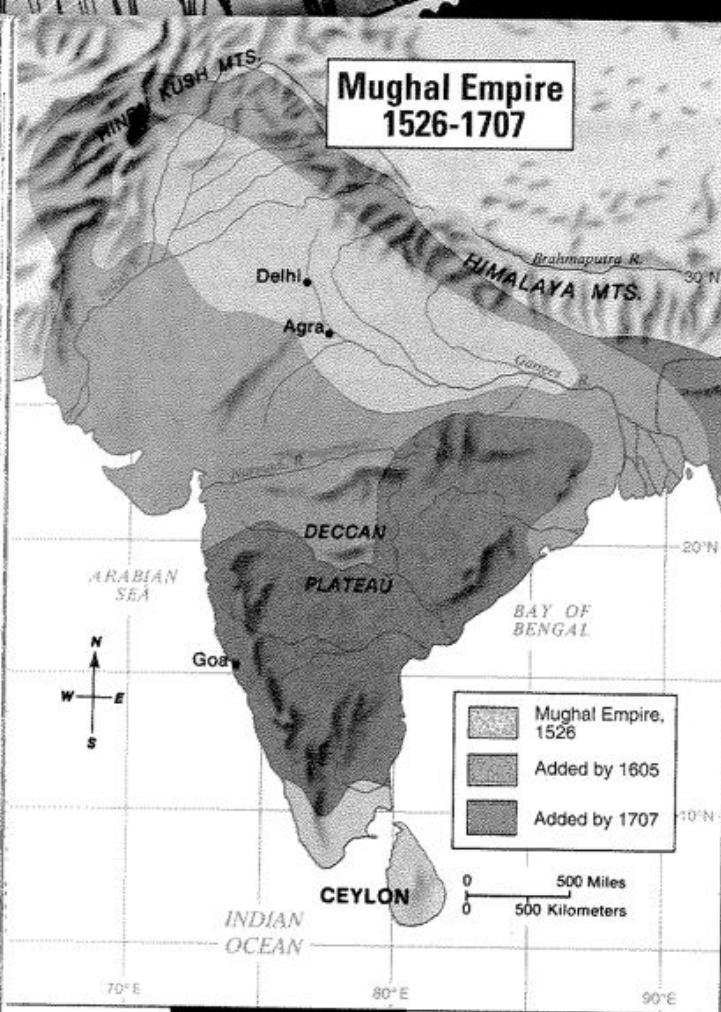
lim houses of worship. Hindus absorbed many Persian legends and myths into their own literature.

The Mughal Empire

The Mughal Empire founded by Babur in 1526 lasted for more than 300 years. At its height, it united most of the peoples of South

Asia. Its golden age occurred during the reign of Akbar, grandson of Babur. Akbar ruled from 1556 to 1605. (See the feature above.)

Akbar realized that to rule India he had to lead Hindus as well as Muslims. Adopting a policy of religious toleration, he married a Hindu princess and abolished the special tax on Hindus. He also appointed Hindus to jobs in government. Today, Indians honor Akbar as



MAP STUDY

The Mughal rulers established a powerful empire that included most of the lands in South Asia.

- 1. Movement** (a) In which directions did the Mughal Empire expand after 1526? (b) What large area was added by 1707?
- 2. Movement** What lands were added by the great Mughal emperor Akbar, who ruled from 1556 to 1605?
- 3. Comparing** Compare the lands included in the Mughal Empire with the lands in the earlier Maurya Empire. (a) In what ways were these empires similar? (b) In what ways were they different?

a master of compromise. He stands with Asoka as one of India's most brilliant rulers.

The arts. Under the Mughals, Islamic and Hindu styles of art and architecture blended to create a unique Indian style. Painters adapted Persian techniques to produce elegant

miniature portraits and to illustrate Hindu stories. Hindu music borrowed from Persian and Arabic musical traditions.

Akbar's grandson, Shah Jahan, hired the best architects to build the Taj Mahal (tahzh muh HAHJ) as a monument to his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. Overcome with grief at her death, he ordered the white marble tomb to be "as beautiful as she was beautiful." More than 20,000 artisans worked for 22 years to complete the Taj Mahal.

Decline. Mughal power weakened in the 1700s. Wasteful spending hurt the empire. Also, Akbar's successors ended his policy of toleration. They imposed heavy taxes on Hindus, closed Hindu schools, and dismissed Hindus from government. Such actions led Hindu princes to revolt. Civil wars among Muslim princes also broke out. The emperor continued to rule over a brilliant court, but his power over outlying areas declined. At the same time, a new wave of intruders—the Europeans—were arriving in growing numbers. You will read about the impact of the Europeans in Section 4.

SECTION 2 REVIEW

- 1. Locate:** (a) Maurya Empire, (b) Pataliputra, (c) Delhi, (d) Mughal Empire.
- 2. Identify:** (a) Asoka, (b) Kalidasa, (c) Urdu, (d) Akbar, (e) Taj Mahal.
- 3. Define:** (a) dynasty, (b) stupa, (c) sultan.
- (a) During what periods was India united?
(b) How did unity under the Guptas lead to a golden age?
- How did differences between Muslims and Hindus lead to conflict between the two groups?
- What role did invaders play in shaping Indian culture?
- 7. Synthesizing Information** Give two examples of cultural diffusion that occurred as a result of Muslim expansion into South Asia.
- 8. Writing Across Cultures** Religion was a major force in keeping Indian society stable during times of turmoil. Jot down your ideas about the role of religion in the development of American society.

3

PATTERNS OF LIFE

FIND OUT

How did the caste system affect life in India?

What role did the village play in traditional Indian life?

What was the structure of the traditional family in India?

Vocabulary purdah

“It is better to do one’s own duty badly,” says the god Krishna in the *Bhagavad-Gita* (BUHG uh vuhd GEE tuh), “than to do another’s duty well.” Krishna’s advice summed up the law of dharma. From an early age, Hindu children learned about duty. Doing one’s duty ensured the moral order of the universe.

While rival princes waged war or made peace, millions of Indians built their lives around two basic social units—the family and the village. The caste system bound people further. It gave each person a role in society and rules to live by. Those rules governed the work people did, the tools they used, the food they ate. To ignore or change those rules was to disrupt the harmony of society.

The Caste System

Indian society developed into a complex system based on class and caste. In Aryan society, you will recall, people belonged to one of four varna, or classes. Later, a fifth group emerged. It included people known as untouchables, who lived at the lowest level of society.

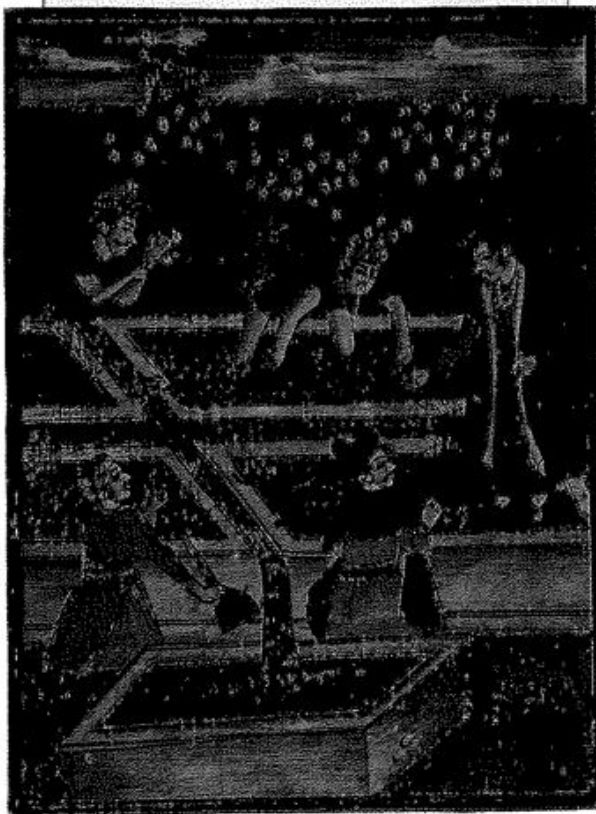
Over thousands of years, the caste system grew and changed. It divided people within each class, until there were thousands of castes and subcastes. Caste is based on the idea that there are separate kinds of humans.

Higher-caste people considered themselves purer—and closer to moksha—than lower-caste people.

As invaders and other people settled in South Asia, they were absorbed into the caste system. Often, they formed new castes. Since caste was based partly on occupation, additional subcastes emerged as new occupations developed.

Rules. Over the centuries, caste rules became increasingly complex. The rules were meant to help people remain spiritually pure. As a result, rules were especially strict for members of the higher castes, who were considered the purest members of society. A

Gardeners at Work This colorful painting from the 1700s shows gardeners tending an irrigated plot of land. As the caste system became more complex over the centuries, even people like gardeners became a separate caste. Nearly two thirds of the members of India’s many castes worked in agriculture. **Culture** How would the caste system have affected the lives of these gardeners’ children?



high-caste person risked spiritual pollution—becoming spiritually unclean—if he or she had contact with lower, or impure, castes. Some castes were thought to be so impure that even the shadow of a person of that caste could pollute others. Members of such low castes had to strike a wooden clapper to warn others of their approach.

Caste rules governed cooking and eating habits, marriage, and employment. A Brahman, for example, could only eat food prepared by another Brahman. Many Brahmans became cooks. Because they were the highest caste, anyone could eat the food they prepared. A Brahman, like members of other castes, had to marry someone of his or her own caste.

Each occupation had its own caste, and a person's job was determined at birth. Gardeners, jewelers, woodworkers, water carriers, and moneylenders—each formed a separate caste.

Other rules determined which gods caste members worshipped, where they lived, and what clothes they wore. Manners, too, grew out of caste. People in lower castes had to greet higher-caste people in certain ways. They could never sit in the presence of a person of higher caste. Each caste had its own council that enforced caste rules.

Interdependence. The caste system created a sense of stability and order in Indian life. Each caste looked after its own members. At the same time, different castes depended on one another. An upper-caste merchant, for example, needed the services of a lower-caste water carrier. Neither could do the work of the other.

For the lowest castes and untouchables, life was very harsh. Each day brought new reminders of their lowly position. Still, the caste system was deeply imbedded in law, custom, and religious tradition, and they accepted the view of their own unworthiness.

Village Life

For most people in South Asia, the village was the basic unit of society. A headman governed the village. He was a respected landlord who often inherited the position from his

father. Usually, the headman made decisions with the help of a council of elders. Together, they organized villagers to work on local projects such as roads, irrigation ditches, and temples.

Villages varied in size, from a handful of people to hundreds of families. Each village had a variety of castes that did the jobs needed for daily life. Castes might include priests, landowners, farmers, herders, carpenters, and metalworkers, as well as such low castes as leather workers and sweepers.

Villages were generally self-sufficient. They produced most of what they needed. At regional markets and during religious festivals, however, people from different villages met and mingled.

In most villages, landlords held much of the land. Landless workers farmed plots belonging to the landlord and had to give him part of the harvest. What remained was barely enough to feed themselves and their families. In the north, people grew wheat and barley. On the well-watered plains, they grew rice. In the drier regions of the Deccan, they planted millet. Families also grew peas, beans, lentils, and cotton, which they spun into cloth.

Villagers relied on cattle for plowing, transporting goods, and milk. They also used cow's milk to make an oil called ghee (gee). Ghee had many uses in cooking. Because it contained no fat, it kept well even in the hot weather. Some scholars suggest that cattle became sacred to Hindus in part because of their economic importance.

Family Life

Indians identified first with their family, then with their village. By tradition, Indians valued the joint family.* The joint family was a form of the extended family. It included a husband, his wife, their sons with their wives and children, and unmarried daughters. The

* Although the joint family was the ideal, in fact only about half of all Indians enjoyed such an arrangement. Especially among the poor, people simply did not live long enough for several generations to be alive at the same time.



Indian Villagers Throughout history, most people in South Asia have lived in villages. The women shown here live in northwestern India. They are operating a machine that grinds up hay, turning it into fodder used to feed farm animals. Indians have long raised buffalo, goats, and sheep as well as cattle. **Technology** Describe the farm technology and economy of this Indian village based on this picture.

husband's brothers, uncles, and cousins might also live under the same roof or nearby.

The family was patriarchal. In the traditional view, "Father is heaven, father is religion, the gods are pleased by pleasing father." "Father" was the oldest male. He was thought to be the wisest and most knowledgeable member of the family. As a result, he had complete control over the household. He might, however, consult with his wife or brothers on issues such as arranging marriages for the children.

Strong family ties created a sense of order. Family interests, rather than those of the individual, were most important. Marriages, therefore, were a family concern. The head of the family arranged marriages to protect and ben-

efit the family. The bride or groom had little or no say.

Often, families arranged marriages for children at an early age. The actual wedding might take place later. At marriage, a girl left her home to become part of her husband's family. Once a year, she might return to visit her family.

Families celebrated weddings with great ceremony. The bride's family paid most of the expenses. Often, they went into debt for a daughter's marriage. Her family had to provide a dowry—that is, a gift of money or goods paid to the groom. The higher a family's caste, the more costly the marriage would be.

Up Close

A Traditional Marriage

Once established, marriage customs remained largely unchanged for hundreds of years. In her autobiography, *Memoirs of an Indian Woman*, Shudha Ghose Mazumdar recalled her own marriage.

“One fine day in November of 1910 I was preparing for my annual [school] examination when I was told that I would not have to go to school any more for my marriage had been arranged.”

Shudha Ghose was 11 years old at the time. The young man she would marry, Satish Chandra Mazumdar, was twice her age. Their parents had arranged the marriage after careful research. They had studied the young couple's horoscopes to be sure that the marriage would be blessed. “I did not want to get married,” Shudha wrote later. “I only wanted to go to school. But my opinion did not count.”

Shudha's father was a wealthy, educated landowner. He had sent his daughter to a convent school. Shudha's mother, however, strictly followed traditional customs. The bride and groom met for the first time at their wedding.

The festivities lasted for several days. In the final ceremony, Shudha and Satish Chandra stood before a statue of Vishnu. A priest lit a fire at the altar. The bride and groom poured rice and ghee onto the flame. Then, hand in hand, they circled the fire seven times. Satish Chandra recited this verse:

“In all that I dedicate myself, offer thou thy heart.
May thy mind in all consciousness follow mine.
May thy speech be ever one with mine.
May the Lord of Creation keep thee
Ever dedicated to me.”

As custom dictated, Shudha replied, “I shall try my utmost.”



Indian Bride and Groom This young bride and groom are waiting for their wedding guests to arrive. Their wedding, like many Hindu marriage ceremonies, is being held in an outdoor pavilion. The bride and groom may be meeting each other for the first time.
Culture Why have the parents of the bride and groom traditionally arranged most marriages in India?

Shudha did her utmost. Like all brides, she moved into the home of her husband's parents. She came to love her husband and bore him two sons. In time, her sons married and their wives joined the family, continuing traditions established over generations. ■

Women's Lives

Within the family and society, women had few rights. A woman's duties were to marry, wait on her husband, and bear sons. In Hindu tradition, only a son could perform the rituals for his dead father's soul.

Although a woman's position was inferior, she did not lack power. Hindus believed that women alone had *shakti*, or creative energy. Because men lacked shakti, they were incomplete unless they married. Women were thought to lack the knowledge to control their power. For that reason, they were seen as dangerous unless ruled by a man.

Throughout her life, a woman had to obey a man. Hindu law codes stated:

“ [A woman] should do nothing independently even in her own house. In childhood subject to her father, in youth to her husband, and when her husband is dead to her sons, she should never enjoy independence. ”

Higher-caste women had to obey especially strict rules. They often lived in *purdah*, or complete seclusion. They wore veils over their faces and rarely left home. They were kept separate from all men except for their husbands and close relatives.

As caste rules hardened, widows were forbidden to remarry. A widow was expected to give up all comforts and spend her life in prayer. A widow was considered unlucky, so other family members ignored her. Some widows threw themselves onto their husbands' funeral fires rather than endure a life of hardship. They became *sati*, or “virtuous women.” In sacrificing her life, Hindus believed, a widow wiped away the sins of her husband and herself.

SECTION 3 REVIEW

1. **Define:** *purdah*.
2. (a) What areas of life did the caste system regulate? (b) Why were caste rules stricter for higher castes?
3. (a) How were Indian villages governed? (b) How did most villagers support themselves?
4. Describe the traditional Indian family.
5. **Applying Information** How did the number of castes reflect India's cultural diversity?
6. **Writing Across Cultures** From what you have read, you can tell that a traditional Indian marriage differs in many ways from a typical American marriage. Make a list of ways in which they are similar.

4

INDIA UNDER BRITISH RULE

FIND OUT

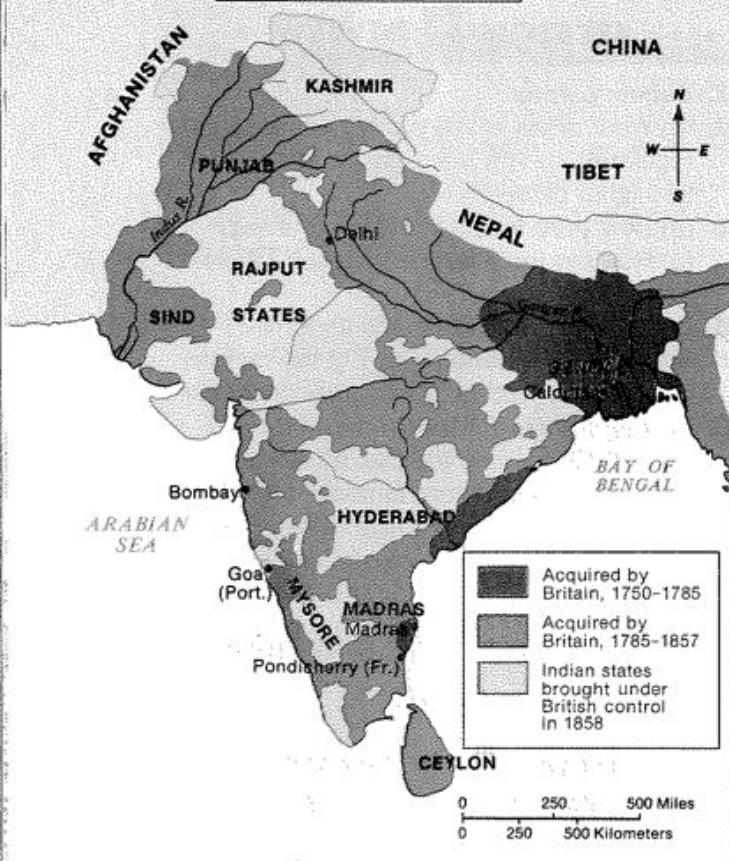
- Why were the British able to win control of India?
- How did British rule affect India?
- What goals did Indian nationalists pursue?

Vocabulary monopoly, sepoy

“A lucky adventure, a lucky venture!” exclaimed a Muslim trader when Portuguese captain Vasco da Gama reached India in 1498. “Plenty of rubies, plenty of emeralds. You owe great thanks to God for having brought you to a country of such riches.”

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to gain a foothold in India. The Dutch, French, and British soon followed. They were eager for a share of the rich Indian trade. At first, the mighty Mughal emperors kept tight control of European activity. In time, however, Mughal power declined. The British, who

The British in India



MAP STUDY

The British first gained a foothold in India by setting up a few trading posts in the 1600s. They expanded their control after 1750 until they finally ruled all of India by 1858.

- 1. Region** (a) What parts of India did the British acquire between 1750 and 1785? (b) What cities in those regions probably traded earlier with the East India Company?
- 2. Location** Who ruled the lands in India that the British took control of in 1858?
- 3. Synthesizing Information** What generalization can you make to describe how the British established their empire in India?

had come as traders, then turned their attention to conquest.

Mughal Emperors and European Traders

After da Gama's voyage, the Portuguese quickly built a trading empire in Asia. They set

up trading posts, from Goa on India's west coast to Southeast Asia. Catholic missionaries sailed with Portuguese merchants and converted many Indians to Christianity.

In the 1600s, the Dutch broke into the Portuguese trade monopoly in Asia. A monopoly is complete control over a market or a product. The English and French also sought trading rights from the Mughals.

Early trade. In 1600, England set up the East India Company. From the Mughal rulers, the East India Company won rights to build trading posts and forts at Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta. (See the map at left.) The English traded gold and silver for Indian goods such as cotton, silk, and tea.

Textiles, or cloth, were the most important goods carried to England by the East India Company. The influence of this trade can still be seen today, in the Indian words that have entered the English language. They include the words calico, dungarees, gingham, khaki, madras, and shawl.

A struggle for power. At first, the powerful Mughal rulers looked down on the Europeans. To the Indians, with their rich spices and silks, the newcomers had little of value to offer. The Mughals set the terms of trade and had the power to enforce them.

In the early 1700s, however, changes occurred in India and in Europe that would have major effects on South Asia. In India, the Mughal Empire entered its long period of decline. Emperors still ruled over a rich court, but they no longer controlled most of the subcontinent. Rival princes set up their own, almost independent kingdoms. In Europe, the British and French were competing for political and economic power. This power struggle spilled over into other parts of the world, including India.

The British* and French took advantage of the Mughal decline. They competed to control India's many small kingdoms and tap new sources of wealth. Fierce fighting broke out between the two European powers. In their

* In 1707, England and Scotland officially joined, forming the United Kingdom of Great Britain. Thus, the term England is used for the country before 1707. The term Britain or Great Britain is used after 1707.

bitter struggle, both sides found allies among local Indian rulers. By the 1760s, however, British forces had overcome the French.

East India Company Rule

Britain owed its success in India in part to Robert Clive, an administrator of the East India Company. Clive led British forces in their successful drive against the French. He also won control of the wealthy Indian state of Bengal. In Bengal and elsewhere, he appointed local rulers who favored the interests of the East India Company.

Many individual Indian rulers fought to keep the British out of their territory. Traditional rivalries, however, kept them from unit-

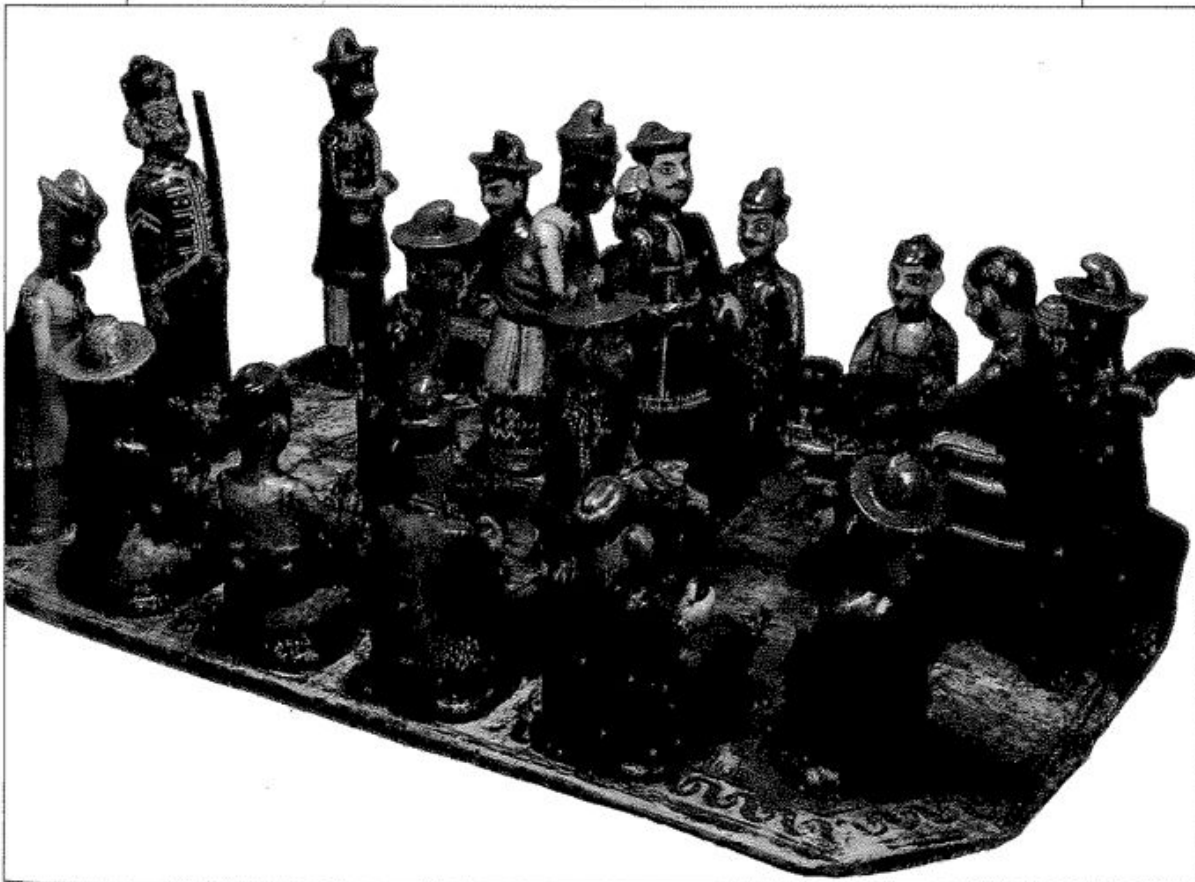
ing. The British encouraged this disunity. The East India Company forced Indian rulers, one by one, to sign treaties granting it greater power.

The East India Company gained enormous wealth from India, especially after the Mughal emperor gave it the right to collect taxes. To protect its interests, the company set up a law code and a court system. It also took over more land. Some areas it ruled directly. Others, it ruled indirectly through local princes.

British Rule

The British government took steps to check the increasing power of the East India Company. Parliament passed laws to regulate

British Justice in India The East India Company set up a system of special courts for Indians. This ceramic model shows an East India Company official, seated at right, presiding over a court trial. An Indian guard, in the red-coat uniform at the far left, is employed by the company to keep order. **Justice** Why might the East India Company want to set up its own court system in India?



affairs. London, however, was far off, and communications were slow.

By the 1850s, Indians had many grievances against British rule. Hindus were outraged when the British outlawed ritual suicide by widows and other Hindu practices. Indian princes disliked having foreigners tell them what to do. High taxes angered farmers. Both Hindus and Muslims resented the efforts of missionaries to convert them to the Christian religion. For many Indians, foreigners were a threat to their whole way of life.

The Sepoy Rebellion. The general unrest helped spark a revolt among the sepoys, Indian troops who served in the British army. In the 1850s, sepoys heard rumors that the cartridges for their new rifles were greased with beef or pork fat. To Hindus, cows were sacred, and Muslims were forbidden to touch pork. A new law further upset the sepoys. The law required them to fight for Britain in foreign lands. Hindus believed that they would lose caste if they traveled overseas.

The Sepoy Rebellion broke out in 1857 near Delhi. It quickly spread across northern and central India. During several months of fighting, both sides committed savage acts. In the end, the British put down the uprising.

A British colony. The rebellion led to a number of political changes. In 1858, the British government took over India as a colony. They sent the last Mughal emperor into exile. In 1876, Queen Victoria of Britain took the title Empress of India.

The British ruled most of India directly, through appointed officials. About a third of the subcontinent remained in the hands of local rulers. Hindu and Muslim princes governed their own kingdoms but had to sign treaties giving the British control of their foreign and military affairs. The British reformed the law codes and controlled the court system.

The Sepoy Rebellion left lasting distrust between Indians and British. The British moved away from using Indian soldiers and set up their own civil service, or body of officials, to rule the colony. At the same time, they set out to create a new class of British-educated Indians.

Indians continued to resent efforts to change their culture. One Indian commented about widespread racism under British rule:

“ In India, every European is automatically a member of the ruling race. Railway carriages, station waiting rooms, benches in parks are marked ‘For Europeans Only.’ To have to put up with this in one’s own country is a humiliating reminder of our enslaved condition. ”

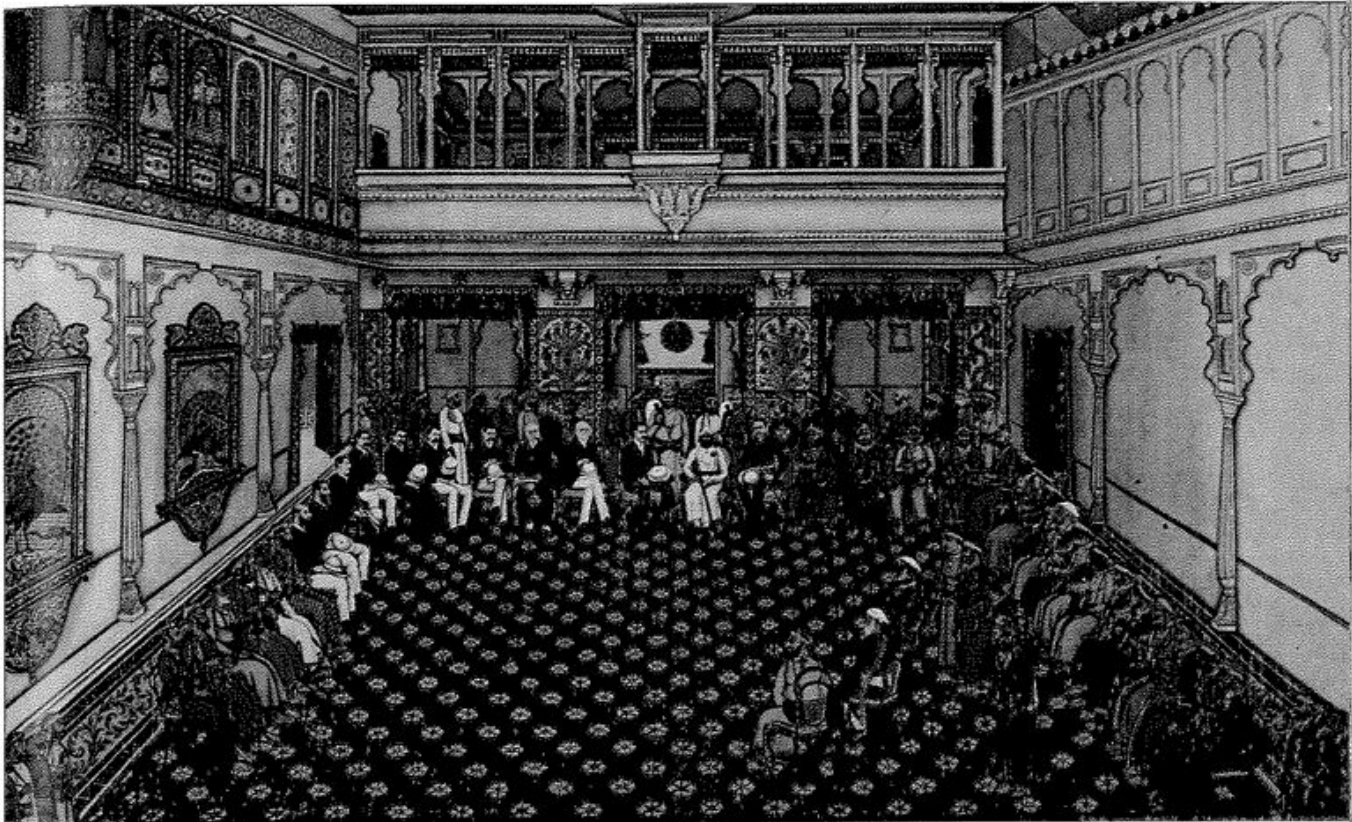
Effects of British Rule

British rule brought economic and social changes to South Asia. The British improved roads and modernized ports. They directed the building of railroads and telegraph systems. These modern forms of transportation and communications helped the British increase trade and control their colony. Officials could report uprisings or disasters instantly and send troops by rail to trouble spots. Improved communications also brought Indians in different regions closer together.

New economic patterns. Other changes helped to destroy the traditional Indian economy and tie India economically to Britain. By the mid-1800s, the Industrial Revolution was in full swing in Britain. British factory owners saw India as a market for their own goods. They discouraged local Indian industries and pushed for laws to limit British imports of Indian-made goods. As a result, Indian industries declined, locally made goods disappeared, and Indians had to buy expensive British-made products.

To pay for British imports, Indians had to raise cash crops such as tea, pepper, coffee, and cotton. As Indian farmers grew less food, famines became frequent and widespread. When food shortages occurred, however, rail links allowed officials to send supplies to hard-hit areas.

Social changes. Britain also introduced changes that affected Indian society. Improved health care and sanitary conditions led to population growth. Many young Indians moved to cities to find jobs.



An Indian Prince's Court British officials, shown here at left, are being received by an Indian prince, Fateh Singh. Prince Singh, dressed in white, continued to oppose the British long after they took control of his state. He refused to allow the British to build irrigation systems, roads, or a school system. **Human Rights** Why do you think Fateh Singh resisted British rule?

The British set up schools and colleges to educate higher-caste Indians. The course of study, which stressed English language and culture, reflected British ethnocentrism. To the British, their culture was superior to that of India. As one official boasted, the British wanted to create "a class of persons, Indian in blood and color, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals, and in intellect."

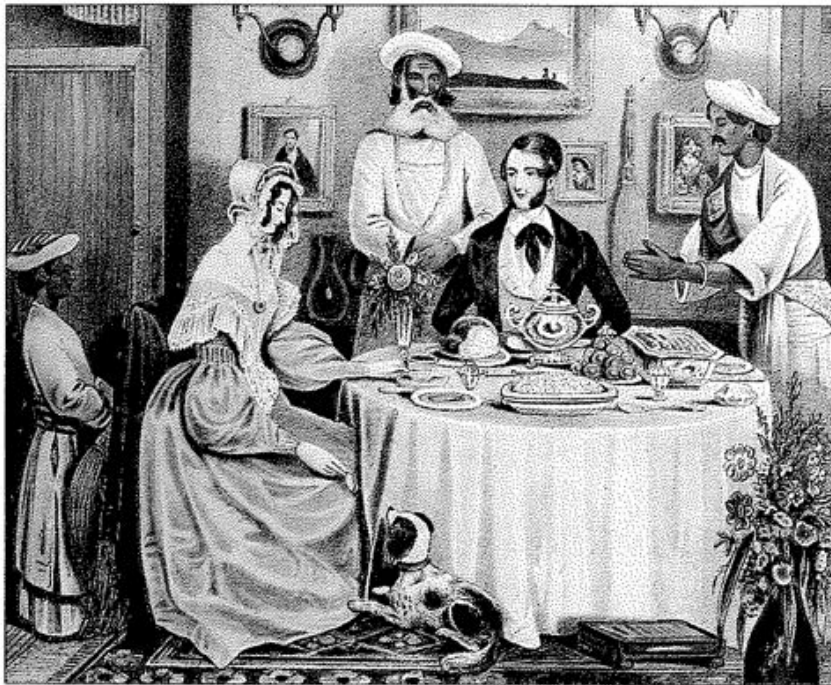
A British-educated Indian middle class emerged. For them, English became a useful common language. Hindi-speakers from the north, for example, could communicate with Tamil-speakers in the south. In studying English history, young Indians learned about political ideals such as liberty, freedom, and "rule by the consent of the governed." Educated

Indians also learned more about their own cultural traditions. This awareness increased their resentment against foreign rule and contributed to the growth of nationalism.

Indian Nationalism

Indian nationalism was strongest among the British-educated elite. These people came mostly from the upper and middle classes, and they were determined to change India. At first, nationalists disagreed among themselves about what direction to take. Some wanted to adopt western ways. They wanted to modernize India and reform the system of British rule.

Other nationalists favored a return to Hindu traditions. They wanted to build a new



The British in India British officials and business people in India continued to follow their own customs. Many had little contact with the Indians whose lives they controlled. This British couple is being served English food, eating on English china, in their home filled with English furniture. **Culture** Why did the British in India keep many of their own ways?

India that blended the best of both Hindu and western cultures. Hindu nationalists won support among poor peasants and other working people. In time, they rejected foreign rule completely and demanded independence.

Indians formed various groups to work for change. Among the most successful was the Indian National Congress (INC), set up in 1885. Most Congress members were Hindus who lived in the cities. The INC began by calling for gradual change. At the same time, it urged the British to open more government jobs to Indians.

After World War I, however, the INC took a more forceful stand. In 1920, Mohandas Gandhi took over the leadership of the Congress movement. As you will read in Chapter 9, he united large sections of the Indian people in support of home rule. Under pressure, Britain promised self-government to India in time. It slowly turned over control of some areas to local government but kept overall power in the country.

As Hindu nationalism grew, Muslims became concerned. In 1906, they founded the Muslim League under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Tensions and distrust kept Hindus and Muslims apart. By the 1930s,

Jinnah came to believe that the subcontinent must be divided into two separate nations—one for Hindus and one for Muslims.

SECTION 4 REVIEW

- Identify:** (a) East India Company, (b) Robert Clive, (c) Sepoy Rebellion, (d) Indian National Congress, (e) Muslim League.
- Define:** (a) monopoly, (b) sepoy.
- What changes in South Asia helped the British conquer India?
- What economic changes did the British bring to India?
- What were the goals of the two major nationalist groups in India?
- Recognizing Bias** Some people have called the events of 1857 the Sepoy Mutiny. Others have called them the First War of Independence. (a) What does each name suggest about the revolt? (b) Who do you think used each name?
- Writing Across Cultures** Imagine that you are living in one of Britain's 13 American colonies during the early 1700s. Write a letter to an Indian living under British colonial rule in which you discuss Britain's regulation of colonial trade.

CHAPTER 8 REVIEW

Understanding Vocabulary

Match each term at left with the correct definition at right.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. reincarnation | a. Indian soldier |
| 2. sepoy | b. complete control over a market or a product |
| 3. dynasty | c. rebirth of the soul in various forms |
| 4. purdah | d. ruling family |
| 5. monopoly | e. complete seclusion |

Reviewing the Main Ideas

- (a) How is Hinduism a tolerant religion? (b) How did this tolerance contribute to India's cultural diversity?
- How did the development of southern India differ from that of northern India?
- Why were Muslims never absorbed into Hindu society?
- What was the role of dharma, or duty, in Hindu society?
- (a) Why did Indians believe they must obey caste rules? (b) How did new castes and subcastes develop?
- (a) Describe the causes of the Sepoy Rebellion. (b) What political changes resulted from the rebellion?
- What were the goals of the following: (a) Indian National Congress, (b) Muslim League?
- Traditional Indian life centered around caste, family, and village. Choose one and describe its role in people's daily life.
- British colonial rule brought major changes to India. Describe one political, one economic, and one social change that resulted from British rule.

Thinking Critically

- Analyzing Information** How might Indians rate the effects of British rule?
- Analyzing Ideas** How did Hindu traditions support both a positive and a negative view of women?
- Making Global Connections** (a) Compare the British treatment of Indians with their treatment of Native Americans. (b) What might explain the differences?

Applying Your Skills

- Two major world religions, Hinduism and Buddhism, started in South Asia. (a) What were the basic beliefs of Hinduism? (b) What were the basic beliefs of Buddhism? (c) Why did Buddhism almost disappear in India?
- Several great empires united South Asia. Describe two achievements of each of the following: (a) Maurya Empire, (b) Gupta Empire, (c) Mughal Empire.
- Over many centuries, various Muslim peoples invaded South Asia. Identify three cultural changes that resulted from contacts between Muslims and Hindus.
- Using Visual Evidence** Look at the pictures on pages 197 and 198. (a) What does the relationship appear to be between the British and the Indians in each picture. (b) How would you account for the relationship between the prince and the British officials? (c) How do you think the Indians reacted to their role as servants?
- Constructing a Time Line** Make a time line showing the major events in Section 2 and Section 4. (a) When did Mughal power weaken? (b) When did the British gain control of India? (c) How are the two events related?