

# **Mauryan Empire**

**First Empire of India**

# Geography

- Mauryan Empire lasted from (322 B.C.E to 185 B.C.E.
- Originated from the kingdom of Magadha
- Southern Asia and parts of Central Asia
- Situation on rich alluvial soil and mineral deposits.



# Government Structure

**First King** - Chandragupta (322 to 298 B.C.E.)

- Established a centralized state, uniting Northern India
- Had state regulated trade that prospered

**Second King** - Bindusara (296 to 273 B.C.E.)

- Extended kingdom to the south

**Third King** - Ashoka (273 to 232 B.C.E.)

- Helped by a council of ministers who were the head of different ministries.
- Was concerned with the welfare of his people



# War

Invasion of  
Alexander the Great  
(320 B.C.E.)



Defeat of Seleucus  
(305 B.C.E.)



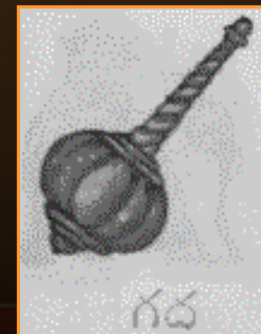
Battle at Kalinga  
(265 to 264 B.C.E.)



# Weaponry

- They used both weapons and military engines.
- Variety of bows
- Weapons with piercings (kunta).
- Different types of swords
- Razor-type weapons (parasu, kuthara)
- Variety of armors and shields

Kunta (lance)



# Disease

## Medical regulations:

- Dangerous diseases should be reported.
- Physicians were fined if their patients died of a disease that wasn't reported.

The punishment was worse if they made an error.



# Agriculture

- Food Crops
  - Rice, Coarse Grain, Sesamum, Pepper, Saffron, Wheat, Barley, Linseed, Mustard, Grapes, Sugar Cane, Pumpkin, Medicinal Roots



Most Important



Least Important

- Economy was driven by agriculture
- Huge farms were kept by the state and were operated and cultivated by slaves.

# Trade/Economy

- Mauryan empire was driven by agriculture
- Farmers were free of tax and crop collections
- Internal trade expanded greatly due to newfound political unity and internal peace
- Chandragupta established single currency across India.



Silver punch mark coin



# Religious Beliefs



Buddhism



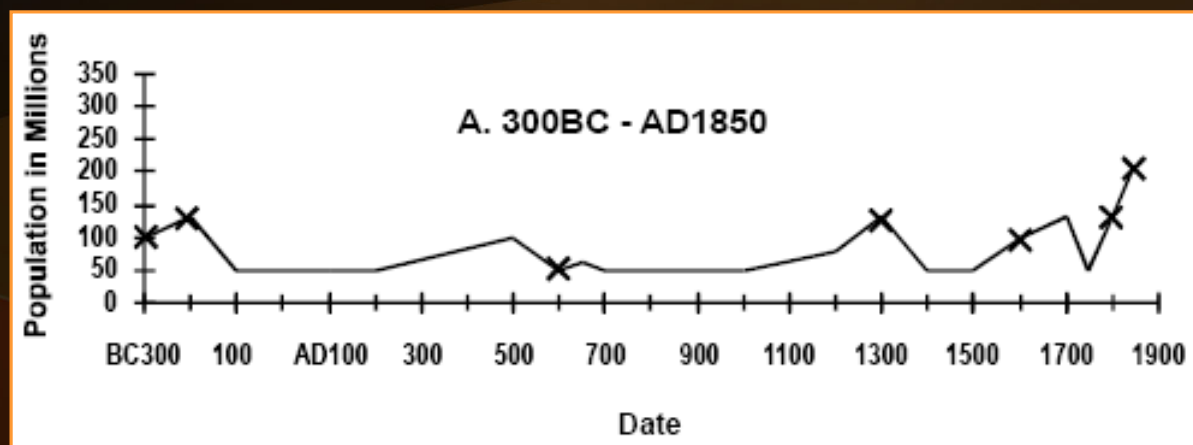
Jainism



Hinduism

# Migration/Population

- 50 million. A third of the world's population at the time
- Greek populations remained in the NW under Ashoka's rule
- Ashoka's Edicts were written in Greek



# Writing System

**Sanskrit** - was the writing system that was used during the Mauryan Empire. Only used by scholars however.

अयोध्याः शासकस्य दशरथस्य चत्वारः  
Ayodhya in ruler of Dashrath with for

पुत्राः अभवन् .  
sons was (lived) .

श्रीरामः ज्येष्ठः पुत्र अभवतः .  
Shri-Ramae eldest son was .

सः बाल्यकाले एव अस्त्रेषु  
He childhood during even weapons

शास्त्रविद्यायाम् च प्रवीण अभवतः .  
holy books knowledge of (shastravidhyam) (and) dextrous (talented) was .

सीता रामस्य भार्या आसीत् .  
Sita Ram of wife was .

दशरथस्य आदेशेन श्रीरामः चतुर्दश  
Dashrath did order Shri-Ram fourteen

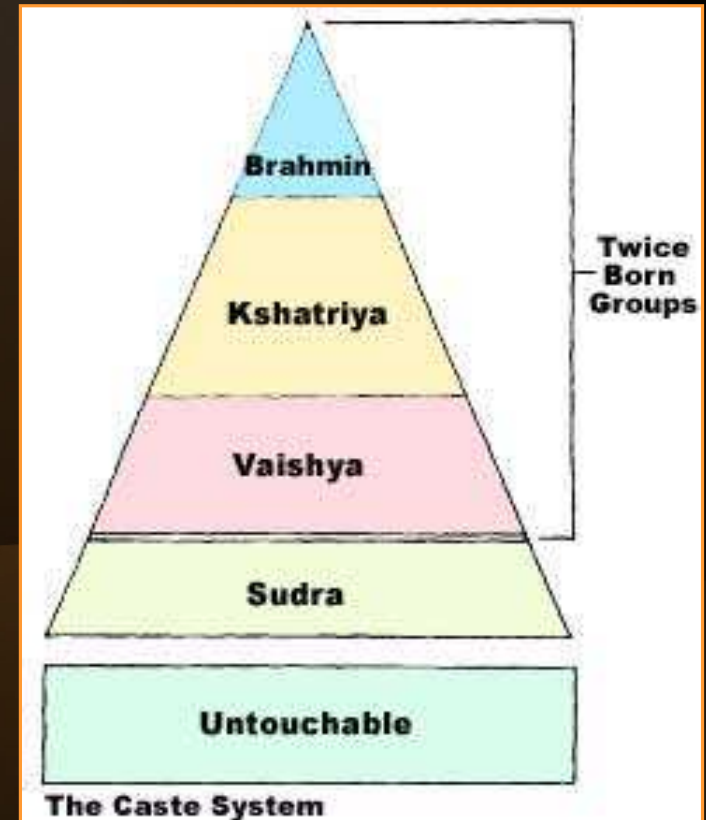
वर्षाणि वन अवसते .  
years for forest in live

In Ayodhya King Dashrath lived with his four sons. . Ram was the eldest . He was very talented in weaponry and knowledge of holy books . Sita was his wife. King Dashrath ordered Ram to go to the forest for fourteen years.

# Social Structure

- **Brahmins** - warriors, priests
- **Kshatriyas** - rulers, warriors
- **Vaishyas** - farmers, merchants, artisans
- **Sudras** - laborers
- **Dalits (untouchables)** - unpleasant, polluted jobs; not directly owned by others.

- 
- Upward mobility sometimes occurred within castes.
  - Strict segregation among castes.



# Gender and Family Structure

## The Caste System

- Regulated the marriages
- Passed down the family, hard to move upward.

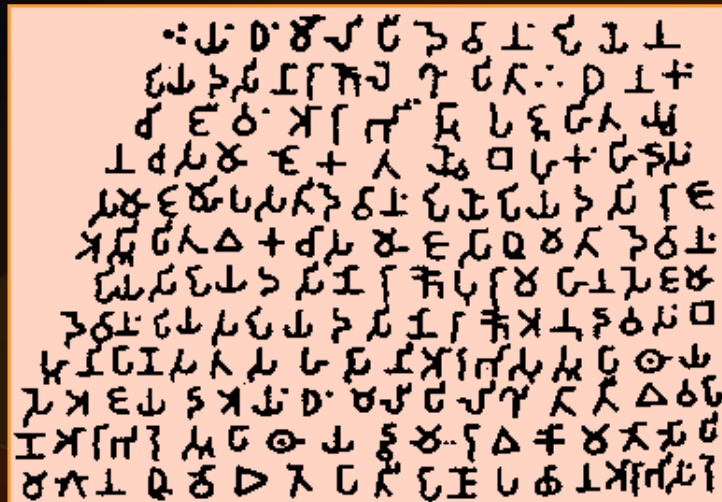
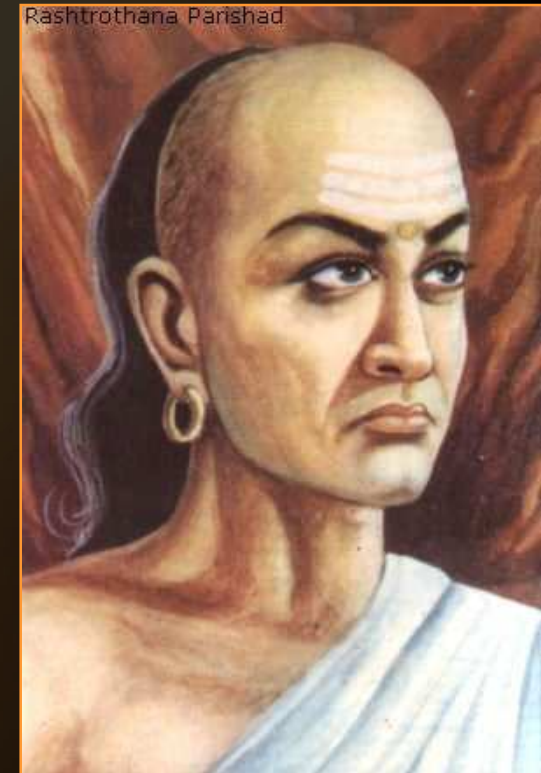
## Hierarchy

- Husbands, fathers were dominant, women were always submissive
- Laws limited women's life and abilities.

*“Even a man in the grip of rage will not be harsh to a woman, remembering that on her depends the joy of love, happiness and virtue”* Mahabharata epic

# Literature

Arthashastra - Kautilya Chanakya →



The Edicts of Ashoka - Ashoka



# The Arts

The Mauryan Empire were the first in India to transition from wood to stone in their architecture and art.

Pillars



Stupa



Coins

