People and Ideas on the Move, 2000 B.C.–250 B.C.

Migrations by Indo-Europeans led to major changes in trade and language as well as to the foundations of three religions: Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism.
People and Ideas on the Move, 2000 B.C.–250 B.C.

Section 1  The Indo-Europeans
Section 2  Hinduism and Buddhism
Section 3  Seafaring Traders
Section 4  The Origins of Judaism
Section-1

The Indo-Europeans

Indo-Europeans migrate into Europe, India, and Southwest Asia and interact with peoples living there.
Section-1

**Indo-Europeans**

**Indo-Europeans Migrate**

**Characteristics of Indo-Europeans**

- **Indo-Europeans**—nomadic, pastoral people; tamed horses, rode chariots
- Came from the **steppes**—dry grasslands north of the Caucasus mountains

**The Indo-European Language Family**

- Language ancestral to many modern languages of Europe and Asia
- English, Spanish, Persian, Hindu trace origins to original Indo-European
- Language groups settled in different areas

**An Unexplained Migration**

- 1700–1200 B.C. Indo-Europeans **migrated**, moved in all directions
The Hittite Empire

The Hittite Arrival

- **Hittites**—a group of Indo-European speakers
- Take control of **Anatolia** (Asia Minor) around 2000 B.C.
- City-states join to form empire; dominate Southwest Asia for 450 years

Hittites Adopt and Adapt

- Borrowed ideas from Mesopotamian culture; adopted Babylonian language

Chariots and Iron Technology

- Hittites skilled in war; spread iron technology by trade and conquest
- Empire falls around 1190 B.C. after attacks from northern tribes
Aryans Transform India

The Aryan People

- **Aryans**—Indo-European people, enter Indus River Valley around 1500 B.C.
- Sacred writing, the **Vedas**, reveal much of their culture

A Caste System Develops

- Aryans physically distinct from people of India
- Four **castes**, or social classes, develop:
  - priests (Brahmans)
  - warriors
  - peasants or traders
  - laborers
- People are born into their caste for life
- Hundreds of subgroups arise later
Aryans Transform India

Aryan Kingdoms Arise

- Aryans extend settlements to other river valleys
- Small kingdoms arise
- Magadha kingdom unites all and spreads across India by 100 B.C.
- Epic *Mahabharata* reflects blending of Aryan and non-Aryan culture
Section-2

**Hinduism and Buddhism Develop**

The beliefs of the Vedic Age develop into Hinduism and Buddhism.
Hinduism and Buddhism Develop

Hinduism Evolves Over Centuries

**Hinduism**

- Collection of religious beliefs that developed slowly over time
- No one founder with a single set of ideas

**Origins and Beliefs**

- 750–500 B.C. Hindu teachers create *Upanishads*—texts of teachings
- Each person has *atman*—soul united with all others in Brahman
- In *reincarnation*, people reborn to new lives
- A soul’s good and bad deeds, *karma*, determines course of new life
Hinduism Evolves Over Centuries

Hinduism Changes and Develops

- Over last 2,500 years different forms of gods grow in importance
- Today, Hindus choose own path to \textit{moksha}—a state of perfect understanding

Hinduism and Society

- Hinduism strengthened the caste system

New Religions Arise

- \textbf{Jainism}, a new religion, arises in 500s B.C.
- Jains will not harm any creature
- They work in trade, commerce; practice religious tolerance
The Buddha Seeks Enlightenment

Siddhartha Gautama

- Founder of Buddhism; priests prophesized his greatness

Siddhartha’s Quest

- Raised in isolation, Siddhartha Gautama wants to learn about world
- Seeks enlightenment (wisdom), how to escape human suffering
- Tries many methods; gains enlightenment by meditating
- Becomes the Buddha, the “enlightened one”
The Buddha Seeks Enlightenment

Origins and Beliefs

- Buddha begins to teach followers
- Preaches Four Noble Truths—basic philosophy of Buddhism
- Fourth Noble Truth is to follow the Eightfold path to achieve nirvana
- **Nirvana:**
  - a perfect state of understanding
  - a release from selfishness and pain
  - a break from the chain of reincarnations, rebirths
- Buddha rejects caste system and multiple gods of Hinduism
The Buddha Seeks Enlightenment

The Religious Community

- Some followers devote lives to religion, become monks and nuns
- Three bases of Buddhism: Buddha, religious community, teachings

Buddhism and Society

- Many followers at first among poor and lower caste
- Monks and nuns spread Buddha’s teachings
- Teachings written to become sacred literature
The Buddha Seeks Enlightenment

Buddhism in India

- Spreads to other parts of Asia
- Never gains firm hold in India; Hinduism remains strong
- Buddhist pilgrims often visit India

Trade and the Spread of Buddhism

- Buddhism spreads by traders to:
  - Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Sumatra
  - China, Korea, Japan
Seafaring Traders

Trading societies extend the development of civilization beyond the Fertile Crescent region.
Section-3

Seafaring Traders

Minoans Trade in the Mediterranean

The Minoan People

- The Minoans, powerful seafaring people, live on Crete in Aegean Sea
- Dominate trade in eastern Mediterranean from 2000 to 1400 B.C.
- Culture influences others, especially Greeks
Minoans Trade in the Mediterranean

Unearthing a Brilliant Civilization

- Excavations of Knossos, capital city of Minoan civilization, revealed:
  - Minoans were peaceful, athletic, lovers of nature and beauty
  - Women had major role, especially in religion
  - Sacrificed animals, and sometimes people, to gods
- Archaeologists name civilization Minoa after King Minos
  - King Minos—legendary king who owned a minotaur
Minoans Trade in the Mediterranean

Minoan Culture’s Mysterious End

- Earthquakes in 1700 B.C. caused damage, but Minoans rebuild
- In 1470 B.C. major earthquakes and volcanic eruption
- Minoans never recover from disasters
- Invaders from Greece take Minoan lands
Phoenicians Spread Trade and Civilization

The Phoenician People
- **Phoenicians**—powerful traders in wealthy city-states along Mediterranean
- Skilled shipbuilders, seafarers; sailed around continent of Africa

Commercial Outposts Around the Mediterranean
- Phoenicians set up colonies in western and central Mediterranean
- Famous for red-purple dye produced from snail

Phoenicia’s Great Legacy: The Alphabet
- Developed system of writing to record trade deals
- Later developed into western alphabet
Ancient Trade Routes

Trade Links Peoples

- Land routes link Mediterranean world and Asia
- Indian traders sail to Southeast Asia and Indonesia
- Trade helps spread culture, ideas, religion
The Origins of Judaism

The Hebrews maintain monotheistic religious beliefs that were unique in the ancient world.
The Origins of Judaism

The Search for a Promised Land

Ancient Palestine

- Palestine was region on eastern shores of Mediterranean
- Hebrew people settled in Canaan, land promised to them by God

From Ur to Egypt

- Torah, first five books of Hebrew Bible, tells early history of Hebrews
- In Torah, God chose Abraham, a shepherd, to be father of Hebrew people
- Abraham moves family and herds from Ur to Canaan around 1800 B.C.
- Around 1650 B.C. Abraham’s descendants move to Egypt
The Search for a Promised Land

The God of Abraham

- Hebrews are **monotheists**, believing in one God only—Yahweh
- Yahweh is all powerful, not a physical being
- A mutual promise, **covenant**, is made between God and Abraham
- Abraham promises to obey God, Yahweh promises protection
Moses and the Exodus

Hebrews Migrate to Egypt

- At first Hebrews are honored in Egyptian kingdom; later become slaves

“Let My People Go”

- Hebrews flee Egypt between 1300 and 1200 B.C.
- Bible tells of God’s command that Moses lead this “Exodus”

A New Covenant

- Moses receives Ten Commandments—become basis of Hebrew law
**Moses and the Exodus**

**The Land and People of the Bible**
- Torah tells of Hebrews wandering Sinai Desert for 40 years
- Arrive in Canaan form twelve tribes; judges provide leadership

**A Hebrew Law**
- Women and men have separate roles, responsibilities
- Law includes strict justice softened by mercy
- Prophets arise later to interpret the law
- They teach people to live moral lives
The Kingdom of Israel

Canaan

- Land that Hebrews believe God promised them
- Canaan land is harsh; Hebrews expand south and north

Saul and David Establish a Kingdom

- Hebrews threatened by Philistines to the north
- Only one tribe remains, Judah; Hebrew religion called Judaism
- From 1020 to 922 B.C. Hebrews (Jews) unite; new kingdom called Israel
- King David establishes Jerusalem as capital
The Kingdom of Israel

Solomon Builds the Kingdom

- David’s son Solomon becomes King; makes Israel a trading empire
- He builds a magnificent temple and royal palace in Jerusalem

The Kingdom Divides

- High taxes and forced labor lead Jews in north to revolt
- By 922 B.C. kingdom divides in two—Israel in north, Judah in south
- 200 years of conflict follow
The Babylonian Captivity

A Conquered People

- In 738 B.C. Israel and Judah pay *tribute* (money for peace) to Assyria
- By 722 B.C. Assyrians conquer Israel
- In 586 B.C. Babylonians conquer Judah, destroy Solomon’s Temple
- Many surviving Jews exiled to Babylon
- In 539 B.C. Persians conquer Babylon; 40,000 Jews return to Jerusalem
- Temple and walls rebuilt; land later ruled by Persians, Greeks, Romans
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