









- 1  **World History I**
 HIST 1210
 Elizabeth Dachowski
 edachowski@tnstate.edu
- 2  **Vedic Religion**
 - Many gods
 - Avatars
 - Varnas: 4 classes
 - Exclusion of untouchables.
- 3  **Vedic Religion**
 - Dharma: duty, maintaining rules of your varna
 - Karma: righteousness, acquired through dharma
 - Sansara: rebirth (new varna based on karma)
 - Moksha: release from cycle of rebirth.
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- 4  **Vedic Religion**
 - Growing formalism (up to 600 BCE):
 - prayers
 - sacrifices
 - ceremonies
 - strict adherence to rules of your varna
 - Sometimes called Brahmanism
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- 5  **Brahmanism (after 600 BCE)**
 - 2 • All varnas:
 - dietary restrictions
 - marriage restrictions
 - occupational restrictions
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- 6  **Aryan Society: Four Varnas**
 - 2 • Brahmans:
 - priests
 - reading sacred texts
 - remaining separate from other varnas
 - performing rituals
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- 7  **Aryan Society: Four Varnas**
 - 2 • Kshatriya
 - warriors, rulers
 - Vaishya
 - merchants
 - Shudra
 - commoners: tillers, herders, laborers, servants
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- 8  **Aryan Society: Four Varnas**
 - 2 • Castes (jati)
 - subdivisions of varnas

– more fluid than varnas

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9 **Buddhism: Origins**

- Life of Gautama Siddhartha (sixth century BCE)
 - Born to a princely family (kshatria)
 - Prediction at birth
 - Sheltered from world
 - Seeks solution to misery
 - Gains enlightenment under the pipal tree
 - Called “the Buddha” (the enlightened one).

10 **Buddhism: Beliefs**

- Four noble truths
 - Misery exists
 - Desire causes misery
 - Desire can be overcome
 - The eightfold path will help overcome desire
- Reincarnation based on virtue
- Ultimate goal of “nirvana” (losing self in a mystical state).

11 **Buddhist Practices**

- Monasteries
- Devotion while still in the world
- Techniques
 - Meditation
 - Asceticism
 - Control of daily behavior (8-fold path).

12 **Buddhism: Spread**

- Within India
 - Initially popular with lower classes
 - Espoused by Asoka (third century BCE)
 - Met with resistance from brahmins
 - Eventually absorbed into Hinduism.

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13 **Buddhism: Spread**

- Silk Road: China, Eurasia
- Chinese cultural influence: Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia
- Coastal trade: Southeast Asia.

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14 **“Reformed” Hinduism**

- Reform by Brahmins
 - Response to rise of Buddhism
 - Open to wider participation by more people

15 **“Reformed” Hinduism**

- Rituals
- Personal meditation
- Pilgrimage
- Smaller offerings became acceptable
- Personal asceticism
- Reading of Vedas opened to warriors

- Festivals.
- 16 **Buddhism vs Hinduism in India**
- Buddhist appeal
 - Open to all classes equally
 - Promised shorter path to nirvana
 - Answered enduring questions.
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- 17 **Buddhism vs Hinduism in India**
- Hinduism's appeal
 - Tradition
 - Incorporation of Buddhist ideas
 - Broadening of participation.
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- 19 **India after Alexander**
- Chandragupta Maurya
 - Indian General of Alexander the Great
 - Founded the Mauryan Empire
- 20 **Kautilya, "Duties of Government Superintendents"**
- What does this source tell about the responsibilities and goals of rulers in Chandragupta's day?
 - - Absolute control
 - Founding villages
 - Cultivation, agriculture, taxes (revenue source)
 - Population management
 - Regulations on buying timber, etc.
 - Taking care of indigent, helpless
 - Defense.
- 21 **Kautilya, "Duties of Government Superintendents"**
- What does this source tell about life of the ruler's subjects?
 - 100-500 families
 - Mainly shudra, a few others (including brahmans)
 - Mining, forestry, elephant forests, fishing, etc. controlled by king
 - Life of an ascetic is allowed under certain circs
 - Exclusion of outsiders
- 22 **Kautilya, "Duties of Government Superintendents"**
- Writing (10 minutes)
 - Based on the selection from Kautilya's work, what role do you think the central government played in village life?
 - Give specific examples from the assigned reading (at least one example, but more are better).
- 23 **India after Alexander**
- Asoka (268-232 BCE)
 - Began as a military leader
 - Later renounced conquest

- Spread of Buddhism through missionaries
- Centralized government
- System of informants

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24  **India after Alexander**

- Disintegration and rebuilding
 - Yueh-Chih invasions (170-165 BCE)
 - Kushana Empire (1-155 CE--dating very uncertain)
 - Gupta Empire (322-540 CE).