

Hinduism



Oldest religion and without a founder

Most complex

Many gods—literally millions

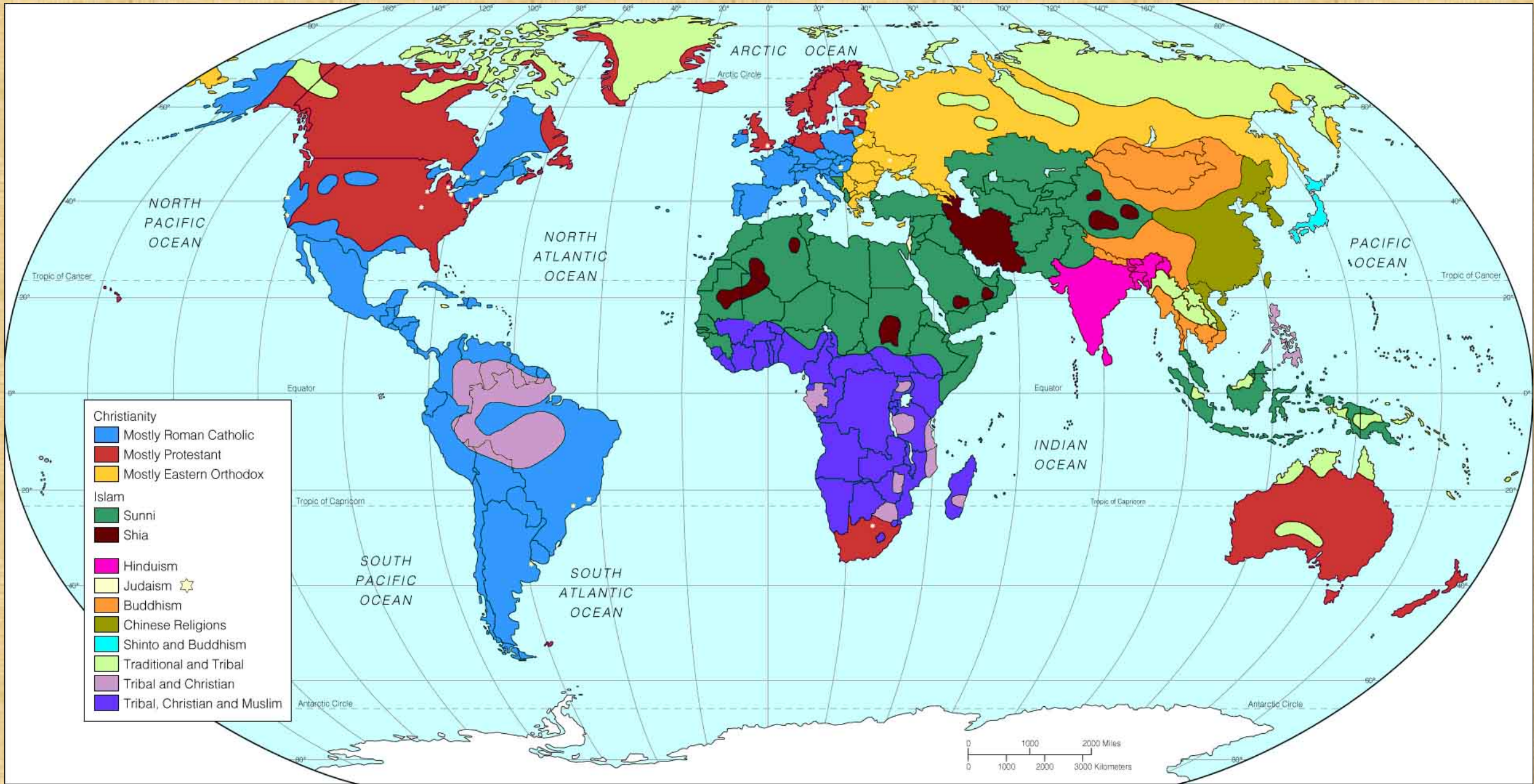
Jainism and Buddhism 6th century BCE spin-offs

Religious “black hole”—absorbing everything

Sikhism 15th century CE spin-off

The Four Old-World River Valley Cultures







**Harappa
civilization**

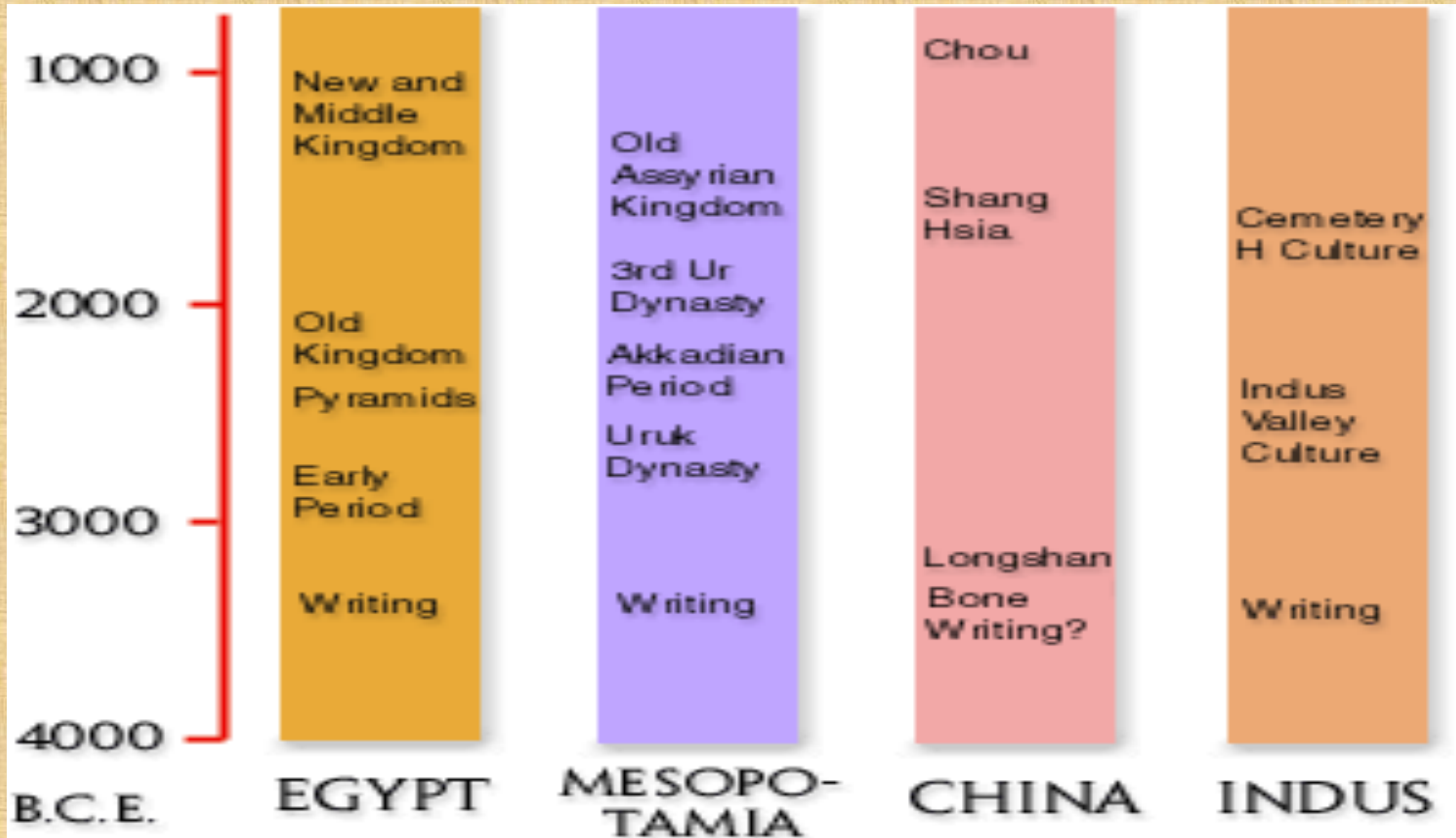


Pre-Aryan India

**Vedic literature biased against native Indian religion ½
million square mile—highly advanced civilization ca.
2500 BCE**

Equal to anything of the Roman period

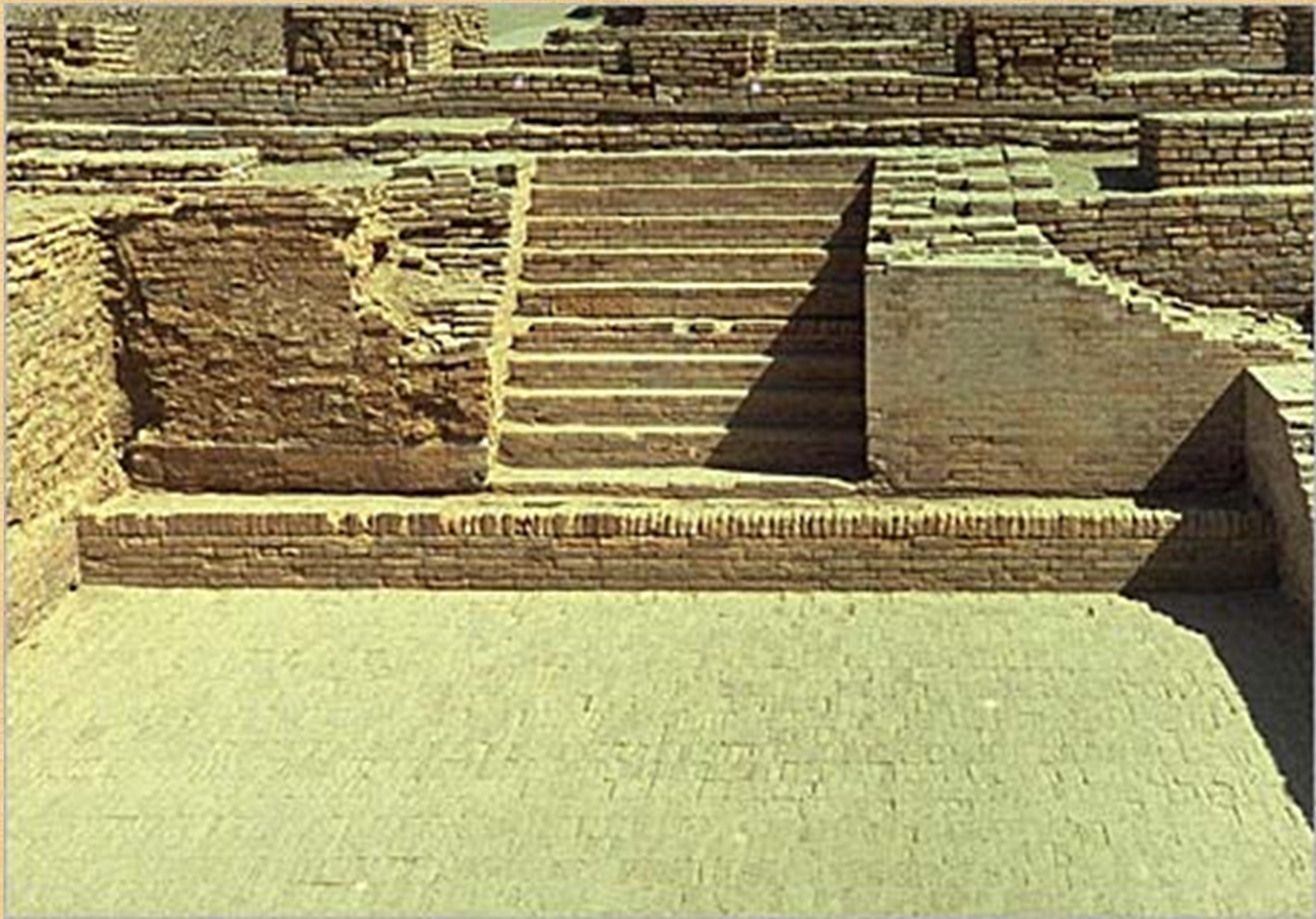
**Hinduism absorbed the Pre-Aryan into its beliefs
(parallels Roman absorption of the Etruscan civilization)**





Entrance into a Harappa city





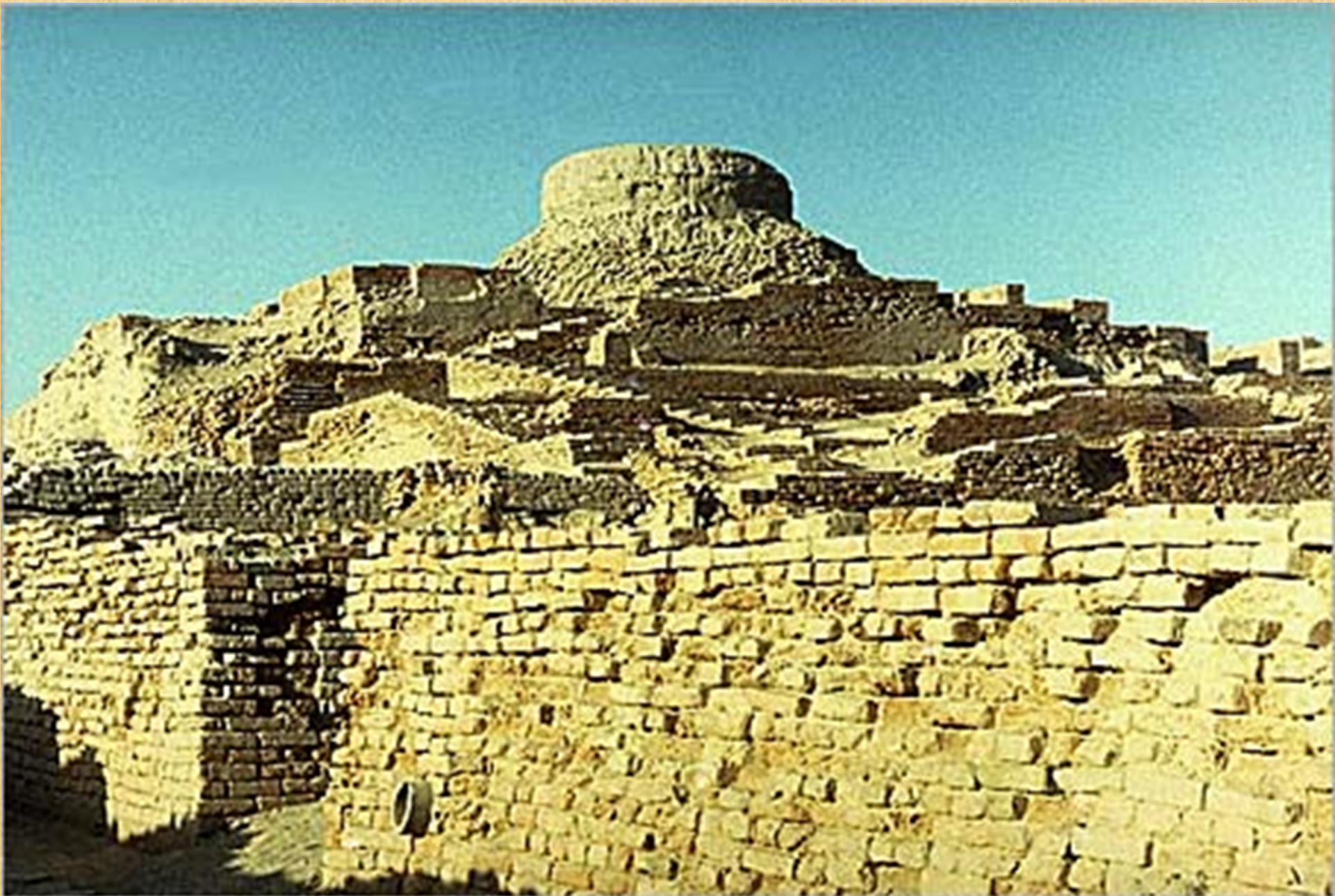
Great bath



Well



Drain in street



Stupa



Granary



Unicorn Seal



Priest-King
(note circle on forehead)

gold disc



Priest-King





Mother and child



a woman figurine













spearing a bull

ARYAN “INVASION”

Absolutely no relationship to Hitler or the Nazis

Aryans=noble ones

Migrated from Iran and carried Zoroastrianism with them ca. 1750-1200 BCE

Varnas:

Brahmins—upper class, priests

Kshatriyas—military leaders and soldiers

Vaishyas—commoners

Shudras—servants/slaves

ARYAN RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Vedic literature—result of mingling of natives and the Aryans

Polytheism/Sacrifice

Vedas (most from 1500-400 BCE)

**Upanishads—philosophy and karma (to do), samsara (to wander across),
Law of Manu (religious finishing activity), protection of the cow**

HINDU SPINOFFS

JAINISM

**Both questioned sacrifice, rejected the Vedas
Jainism—asceticism and ahimsa**

BUDDHISM

**Many parallels
Less extreme
Searching for Enlightenment**

BHAGAVAD GITA

Indian version of Homer's epic poem

Arjuna reflections upon war with Krishna

Pushes Hindu theology:

Stay and do well within your caste

***Moksha* through obeying laws, asceticism, etc.**

Vishnu concerned for his people



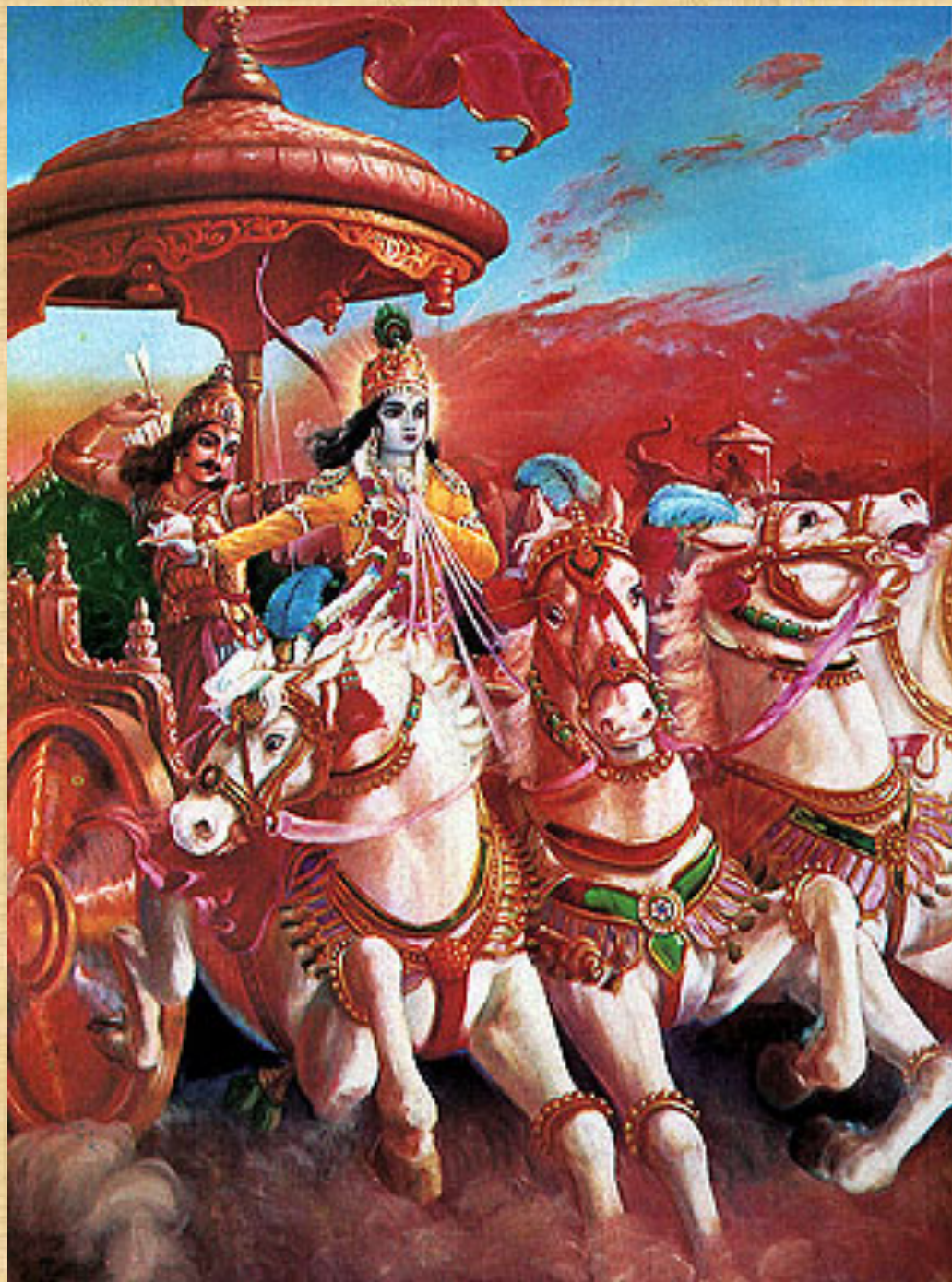
Brahma— “Trinity”



Vishnu

“Madonna and child” Krishna





Lord Krishna



Shiva

Basic Beliefs of Hinduism

Reincarnation—working within caste system

Nirvana—getting off the cycle of life

Salvation (getting to Nirvana) is accomplished by works, knowledge, devotion

No real founder

Dharma—teachings of virtue

Not into converting believers

Yoga (to yoke with atman of Brahman)

Suttee—joining ones spouse

Hinduism vs. Islam

Conflict over mono- vs. polytheism

Picturing of god, etc.

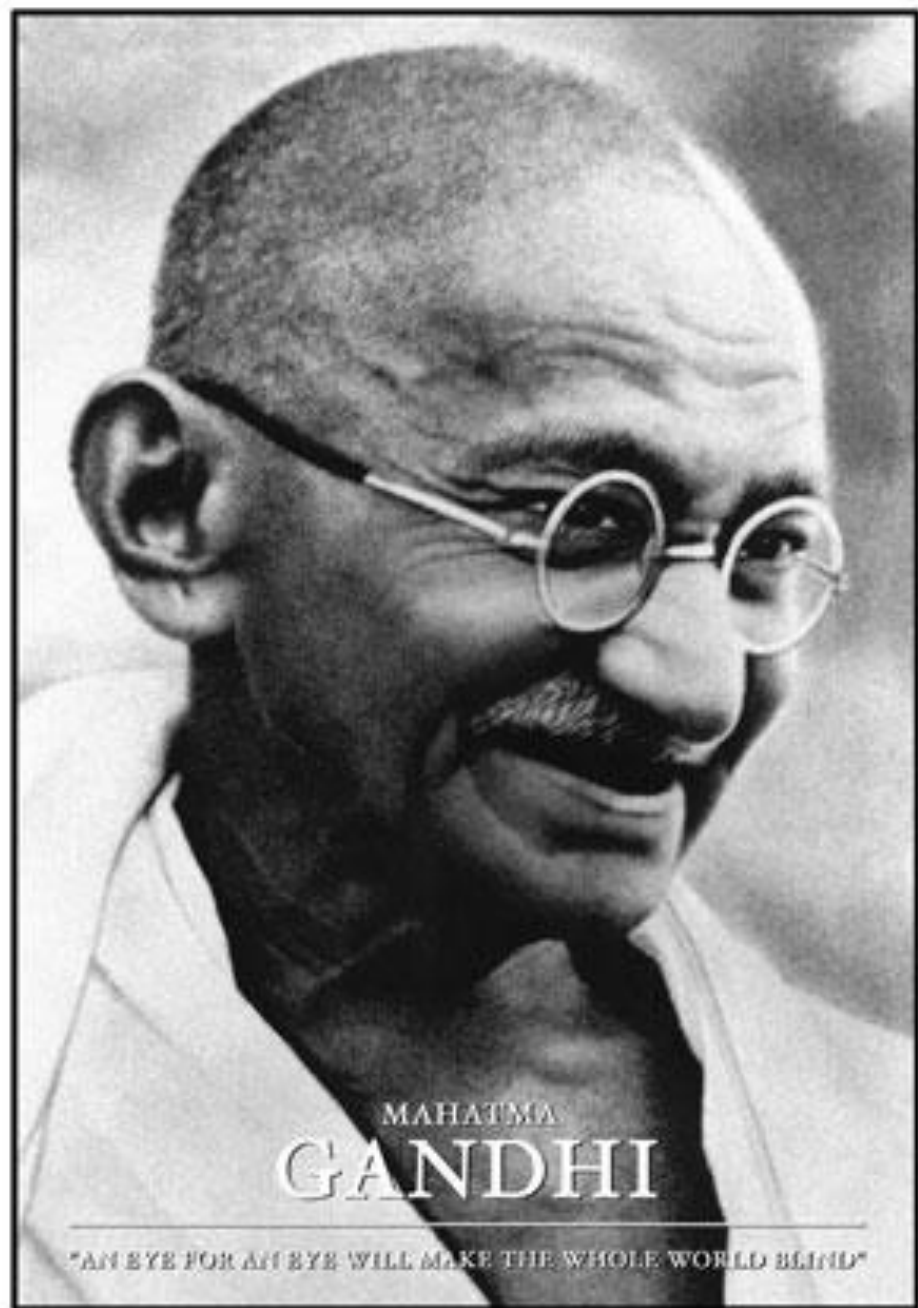
Land—more than merely Kashmir

Use of cows for sacrifice

Equality issues vs. caste system

Sikhism—an attempt to mix and blend

Rise of fundamentalism in both faiths



MAHATMA
GANDHI

"AN EYE FOR AN EYE WILL MAKE THE WHOLE WORLD BLIND"

Gandhi in Africa











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