

Date: _____

India's History

Early History

- 2500 B.C. Indus Valley- first civilization.
- 1500 B.C. Aryan Invaders mixed culture with the Indians.
 - Formed beginnings of religion- Hinduism.
 - Developed the caste system.

Caste System

- Groups of people in society whose birth determines their position & occupation.
- Gave people roles & rules to live by.
- Believed it kept their soul pure.
- Karma (deeds in past lives determined your fate in the next life) determined what caste you were born into.

5 Levels of the Caste System

- 1) Brahmins- Priests, religious leaders or religious teachers.
- 2) Kshatriyas- Ruling families, nobility, warriors
- 3) Vaishyas- Business men, merchants, landowning farmers
- 4) Shudras- Artisans, servants, peasants
- 5) Untouchables or Dalits- Did work other castes considered unclean (such as working with blood, hair, or trash)

Caste System Video: How did Gandhi's work affect the untouchable?

It is technically outlawed today although it still exists in some states of India.

Islam Comes to India

- 1000 A.D. Muslim armies begin raiding India.
- Set up a Muslim Kingdom at Delhi.
- Most Indians kept their own religions and did not convert to Islam.

1500-1700 Mughal Empire

- Muslim invaders from Central Asia Led by Babur, descendant of Genghis Khan.
- Lands were divided among Babur sons who fought each other for years.
- Most successful Mughal ruler was Akbar- ruled during a time of peace.
- Akbar's grandson Shah Jahan known for building the Taj Mahal.

1750-1947 British Rule India

- During the 1700s & 1800s the British slowly took control of India.
- Positive effects: built roads, railroads, schools, & improved health care.
- Negative effects: destroyed traditional Indian economy/industry & limited rights of Indian people.
- Examples:
- Goods from British factories replaced traditional Indian goods.
- Indians were treated like second-class citizens and did not have the same rights as the white, British citizens.