The Indus Valley Civilization

(2600–1900 BCE)

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The Indus Valley contained natural borders which helped the citizens be protected from attack and disease. It also allowed invaders, with weapons, to enter.

Present day India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhuta
Politics

- Major cities, like Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, suggests they could have had urban cities that were master-planned.
- The large city size indicates a strong central government that was probably lead by a priest-king.
- NO record to indicate that the Indus Valley Civilization had any official political system.
The development of widespread irrigation systems allowed the indigenous population to provide food for themselves and for trade.

- Wheat and barley were primary crops.
- Rye, peas, cotton, and rice were also grown.

Domestication of animals also served as an important tool for cultivation and as a source of food.
The economy depended on trade. Trade was conducted within the civilization as well as with Mesopotamia and parts of Egypt.

- Advancement in technology led to carts and early boats that were used as the main method of trade and travel.
Basic Hinduism was one of many religions practiced in the Indus Valley Civilization after it was introduced by the Aryans. Researchers have found swastikas (a symbol that generally takes the form of an equilateral cross), Hindu gods (Shiva and Rudra), and a Mother Goddess symbolizing fertility. Researchers believe that the Aryans influenced the Hindu religion. The Indus Valley Civilization was, and still is, a polytheistic religion.
Social Structures

- The Indus Valley Civilization social structures was at first based on skin color
- Today the Indus Valley has a caste system with four classes:
  - Brahmins (priests and the king)
  - Kshatriyas (warriors and aristocrats - rulers)
  - Vaishyas (cultivators, artisans, and merchants)
  - Sudras (peasants and serfs)
Gender Roles

- Men worked within their designated caste social class
- Women were valued because of their ability to produce offspring and nurse
- When children were old enough, they adopted their parents' role
The Indus Valley Civilization was the first civilization in the world to develop precise measurement and weighing equipment.

- It had large irrigation systems.
- Most of the technology was used to aid in agriculture.
- Other trade technologies such as boats and carts were employed for trade.
Tools & Weapons

- **Tools**
  - Developed a measuring system and tools for measurement (first, and most precise of the time)
  - Constructed from bronze and possibly copper and iron
  - Clay was utilized for both art and tool manufacturing

- **Weapons**
  - Constructed from bronze
  - Weaponry was not as advanced as it was in the Mesopotamian society
  - Swords were not developed
  - Isolated geography negated the need for advanced weaponry
Archeologist have over 400 distinct Indus symbols which were made on seals, small tablets, and on over dozens of other materials. Vedas (One of the oldest Scriptures of Hinduism) were also found. Scholars are not certain if these symbols consist of a proper writing system.
Buildings & Structures

- Individual buildings for bathing and using the restroom (had an early "sanitation" system)
- Most buildings were made of dry bricks
- All houses had access to water and were about the same size (one or two stories high)
- Citadels were used for defense (a fortress protecting a town, sometimes incorporating a castle)
- Granaries (a storehouse or room in a barn for threshed grain or animal feed. Ancient or primitive granaries are most often made out of pottery)
- No large monuments or structures
The Aryans

- Aryans are nomadic invaders which migrated to the northwestern India near the Indus Valley civilization.
- Theories suggest that the Aryans took over The Indus Valley Civilization using force and violence causing .
http://www.rivervalleycivilizations.com/indus.php