1. **Harappan Society**
   1. Foundations of Harappan Society
      1. The Indus River
         1. Runs through north India, sources at Hindu Kush and the Himalayas
         2. Rich deposits, but less predictable than the Nile
         3. Wheat and barley were cultivated in Indus valley
         4. Cultivated cotton before 5000 B.C.E.
         5. Complex society of Dravidians, 3000 and 2500 B.C.E.
      2. Harappa and Mohenjo-daro
         1. Harappa and Mohenjo-daro: possibly served as twin capitals
         2. Each city had a fortified citadel and a large granary
         3. Broad streets, market places, temples, public buildings
         4. Standardized weights, measures, architectural styles, and brick sizes
      3. Specialized labor and trade
         1. Domestic trade, items included pottery, tools, gold, silver, copper
         2. Trading with Mesopotamians about 2300 to 1750 B.C.E.
   2. Harappan Society and Culture
      1. Social distinctions as seen from living styles
      2. Religious beliefs strongly emphasized fertility
      3. Harappan society declined from 2000 B.C.E. onward
         1. Ecological degradation led to a subsistence crisis
         2. Another possibility: natural catastrophes - floods or earthquakes
         3. Population began to abandon their cities by about 1700 B.C.E.
         4. Almost entirely collapsed by about 1500 B.C.E
2. **The Indo-European Migrations and Early Aryan India**
   1. Indo-European Peoples and Early Aryan India
      1. Indo-European languages
         1. Linguistic similarities among languages of Europe, Persia, and India
         2. Indo-European family of languages: Indo-Iranian, Greek, Balto-Slavic, Germanic, Italic, and Celtic
         3. Migrations as the key to explain linguistic similarities
      2. Indo-European origins: North of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, modern-day Ukraine and southern Russia
      3. Indo-European migrations
         1. To Tarim Basin, fourth millennium B.C.E.
         2. To Anatolia (the Hittites), 3000 B.C.E.
         3. By 2nd millennium, established communities in central and western Europe
   2. The Aryans and India
      1. The early Aryans
         1. Depended heavily on a pastoral economy
         2. No writing system, but had orally transmitted works called the Vedas
         3. Sacred language (Sanskrit) and daily-use language (Prakit)
      2. The Vedic Age: 1500 to 500 B.C.E.
         1. A boisterous period, conflict with indigenous peoples
         2. Called indigenous people *dasas* - "enemies" or "subject people"
         3. Indra, the Aryans' war god and military hero
         4. Aryan chiefdoms fought ferociously among themselves
      3. Aryan migrations in India
         1. First settled in the Punjab, the upper Indus River valley
         2. Spread east and south from their base
         3. After 1000 B.C.E. settled between Himalayan foothills and Ganges River
         4. Used iron tools and developed agriculture
         5. By 500 B.C.E. migrated as far south as the northern Deccan
         6. Lost tribal organizations but established regional kingdoms
3. **Vedic Society**
   1. Origins of the Caste System
      1. Caste and *varna*
         1. The meaning of *caste*: hereditary, unchangeable social classes
         2. The Sanskrit word *varna,* "color," referring to social classes
         3. Social distinctions based on racial differences
      2. Social distinctions in the late Vedic Age
         1. Four main varnas, recognized after 1000 B.C.E.
            1. *brahmins* (priests)
            2. *kshatriyas* (warriors and aristocrats)
            3. *vaishyas* (cultivators, artisans, and merchants)
            4. *shudras* (landless peasants and serfs)
         2. Later, the category of the untouchables was added
      3. Subcaste or *jati*
         1. Represents more elaborate scheme of social classification, developed after the 6th century B.C.E.
         2. *Jati*, or subcastes, were determined by occupations
         3. The elaborate rules of *jati* life
      4. Caste and social mobility
         1. Caste system was capable of accommodating social change
         2. Social mobility was very difficult but still possible
         3. Foreign peoples could find a place in society of the castes
   2. Development of Patriarchal Society
      1. Patriarchal and patrilineal society
         1. Men served as priests, warriors, and tribal chiefs
         2. Family lines based on male descendants (the patriline)
         3. Only males could inherit property
         4. Men learned the Vedas and received formal education
      2. *The Lawbook of Manu*
         1. Prepared by an anonymous sage, 1st century B.C.E.
         2. Dealt with moral behavior and social relationships
         3. Advised men to treat women with honor and respect
         4. Subjected women to the control and guidance of men
         5. Women's duties: to bear children and maintain the household
      3. *Sati* as a social custom
4. **Religion in the Vedic Age**
   1. Aryan Religion
      1. The Aryan gods
         1. The war god, Indra
         2. The gods of the sun, the sky, the moon, fire, health, disease...
         3. The god Varuna - an ethical concern
      2. Ritual sacrifices
         1. Importance of ritual sacrifices
         2. Priests were specialists of the ritual sacrifices
         3. Ritual sacrifices for rewards from the divine power
      3. Spirituality
         1. Many Aryans were dissatisfied with ritual sacrifices in late Vedic age
         2. A shift to spiritual contemplation
         3. Thoughtful individuals retreated to forests as hermits
         4. Dravidian notions of transmigration and reincarnation were adapted
   2. The Blending of Aryan and Dravidian Values
      1. The Upanishads
         1. Works of religious teachings, 800 to 400 B.C.E.
         2. The religious forums: dialogues between disciples and sages
      2. Brahman: the universal soul
         1. Brahman was the only genuine reality
         2. Highest goal: to escape reincarnation and join with Brahman
      3. Teachings of the Upanishads
         1. *Samsara*: An individual soul was born many times
         2. *Karma*: specific incarnations that a soul experienced
         3. *Moksha*: permanent liberation from physical incarnation
      4. Religion and Vedic Society
         1. *Samsara* and *karma* reinforced social hierarchy
         2. Upanishads were also spiritual and intellectual contemplations
         3. Taught to observe high ethical standards
         4. Respect for all living things, a vegetarian diet