1. **The Fortunes of Empire in Classical India**
   1. The Mauryan Dynasty and the Temporary Unification of India
      1. Magadha Kingdom
         1. Intrusions of Cyrus (520 B.C.E.) and Alexander (327 B.C.E.)
         2. A political vacuum left by Alexander's withdrawal
         3. Magadha kingdom filled the vacuum
      2. Chandragupta Maurya
         1. The founder of the Mauryan empire
         2. Overthrew the Magadha kingdom in 321 B.C.E.
         3. Conquered the Greek state in Bactria
         4. Chandragupta's empire embraced all of northern India
      3. Chandragupta's government
         1. Government procedures devised by Kautalya, the advisor of the empire
         2. The political handbook, *Arthashastra*, outlined administrative methods
      4. Ashoka Maurya (reigned 268-232 B.C.E.)
         1. Chandragupta's grandson, the high point of the Mauryan empire
         2. Conquered the kingdom of Kalinga, 260 B.C.E.
         3. Ruled through tightly organized bureaucracy
         4. Established capital at Pataliputra
         5. Policies of encouraging agriculture and trade
      5. Decline of the Mauryan Empire
         1. Ashoka died in 232 B.C.E.
         2. Suffered from acute financial and economic difficulties
            1. High cost for maintaining army and bureaucrats
            2. Debasing the currency, not a effective resolution
         3. The empire collapsed by 185 B.C.E.
   2. The Revival of Empire under the Guptas
      1. The Gupta Dynasty
         1. After the Mauryan empire, India was controlled by regional kingdoms
         2. The Gupta state rose to power in Magadha
         3. Chandra Gupta (not related to Chandragupta) founded the new dynasty
         4. Gupta dynasty was relatively decentralized
      2. Gupta decline
         1. Invasion of White Huns weakened the empire
         2. After the 5th century C.E., Gupta dynasty continued in name only
         3. Large regional kingdoms dominated political life in India
2. **Economic Development and Social Distinctions**
   1. Towns and Trade
      1. Towns and manufacturing
         1. Towns dotted the India countryside after 600 B.C.E.
         2. Towns provided manufactured products and luxury goods
         3. Large scale business: the example of Saddalaputta
      2. Long-distance trade
         1. Invasions by Persian empires helped to build extensive trade networks
         2. Trade with China through the silk roads of central Asia
         3. Trade in the Indian Ocean basin boomed
         4. Trade with Indonesia, southeast Asia, Mediterranean basin
   2. Family Life and the Caste System
      1. Social and gender relations
         1. Strong patriarchal families
         2. Subordination of women to men as seen in literary works
         3. Child marriage placed women under control of old men
      2. Development of caste system
         1. New social groups of artisans, craftsmen, and merchants appeared
         2. Individuals of same trade or craft formed a guild
         3. Functions of guilds: social security and welfare systems
         4. Guilds functioned as subcastes, or *jati*
      3. Wealth and social order
         1. Trade and industry brought prosperity to many *vaishyas* and *shudras*
         2. Old beliefs and values of early Aryan society became increasingly irrelevant
3. **Religions of Salvation in Classical India**
   1. Jainism and the Challenge to the Established Cultural Order
      1. Vardhamana Mahavira
         1. Born in north India, 540 B.C.E.
         2. Left family, searching for salvation from cycle of incarnation
         3. Gained enlightenment, taught an ascetic doctrine
         4. His disciples began to lead a monastic life
         5. Mahavira became *Jina*, the "conqueror," and followers, *Jains*
      2. Jainist doctrine and ethics
         1. Inspired by the Upanishads
         2. Everything in the universe possessed a soul
         3. Striving to purify one's selfish behavior to attain a state of bliss
         4. The principle of *ahimsa*, nonviolence toward all living things
         5. Believed that almost all occupations entailed violence of some kind
         6. Too demanding, not a practical alternative to the cult of the *brahmins*
      3. Appeal of Jainism
         1. Social implication: Individual souls equally participated in ultimate reality
         2. The Jains did not recognize social hierarchies of caste and *jati*
         3. Became attractive to members of lower castes
         4. The ascetic tradition continues to today
   2. Early Buddhism
      1. Siddhartha Gautama (563-483 B.C.E.)
         1. Born in 563 B.C.E. in a small tribal state governed by his father
         2. Witnessed miseries of the human condition
         3. Gave up his comfortable life and began searching for enlightenment
         4. Intense meditation and extreme asceticism
         5. Received enlightenment under the bo tree and became Buddha
      2. The Buddha and his followers
         1. "Turning of the Wheel of the Law," 528 B.C.E.
         2. Organized followers into a community of monks
         3. Traveled throughout north India, bringing enlightenment to others
      3. Buddhist doctrine: The *dharma*
         1. The Four Noble Truths
            1. All life involves suffering
            2. Desire is the cause of suffering
            3. Elimination of desire brings an end to suffering
            4. The Noble Eightfold Path brings the elimination of desire
         2. The Noble Eightfold path: Right belief, right resolve, right speech, right behavior, right occupation, right effort, right contemplation, and right meditation
         3. Religious goal: personal salvation, or *nirvana*, a state of perfect spiritual independence
      4. Appeal of Buddhism
         1. Appealed strongly to members of lower castes
            1. Salvation without services of the brahmins
            2. Did not recognize social hierarchies of castes and *jati*
         2. Less demanding than Jainism, more popular
         3. Used vernacular tongues, not Sanskrit
         4. Holy sites and pilgrims
         5. The monastic organizations - extremely efficient at spreading the Buddhist message and winning converts to the faith
      5. Ashoka's support
         1. Emperor Ashoka became a devout Buddhist, 206 B.C.E.
         2. Banned animal sacrifices in honor of *ahimsa*
         3. Granted lands to monasteries
         4. Sent missionaries to Bactria and Ceylon
   3. Mahayana Buddhism
      1. Early Buddhism made heavy demands on individuals
         1. Giving up personal property
         2. Forsaking the search for social standing
         3. Detaching oneself from worldly pleasures
      2. Development of Buddhism
         1. Buddha became a god
         2. The notion of *boddhisatva* - "an enlightened being"
         3. Monasteries began to accept gifts from wealthy individuals
         4. Buddhism became more attractive
      3. The spread of Mahayana Buddhism
         1. *Mahayana* - "the greater vehicle"
         2. Spread to central and east Asia
         3. Buddhist monasteries were also educational institutions
         4. Nalanda, the best known monastery and school
   4. The Emergence of Popular Hinduism
      1. The epics
         1. *Mahabharata*, a secular poem revised by brahmin scholars to honor the god Vishnu, the preserver of the world
         2. *Ramayana*, a secular story of Rama and Sita was changed into a Hindu story
      2. The *Bhagavad Gita*
         1. A short poetic work
         2. A dialogue between the god Vishnu and a warrior
         3. Illustrated expectations of Hinduism and promise of salvation
      3. Hindu ethics
         1. Lower demands for achieving salvation
         2. Individuals should meet their responsibilities in detached fashion
         3. Balance of *dharma, artha, kama* would help an individual to attain *moksha*
      4. Popularity of Hinduism
         1. Became more popular than Buddhism
         2. The Guptas and their successors helped Hinduism become the dominant religion in India