**India**

**Caste system** – social groups into which people are born and cannot change out of

* + The Indian caste system functioned, political institution by enforcing rules about social behavior**.**

[Helped Aryans gain power over other groups]

[Reinforced through Hinduism and still present in Indian culture]

**Indian Dynasties**

* **Mauryan Dynasty**
	+ Aryan influenced the development of Hinduism and Buddhism
	+ Founded by Chandragupta Maurya (324 – 301 BC)
	+ King set up his government with governors and secret police
* **Key features**
	+ Well organized and highly centralized empire
	+ Empire divided into provinces rules by governors
	+ Rule was reinforced by army and spies
* **Asoka** ­– the greatest emperor of this time
	+ Most influential in the spread of Buddhism throughout India
		- Missionaries, gave up war and violence, civil improvement
	+ Architecture – Asoka built temples and sculptures to teach about Buddhism
		- Stupa: a shrine that houses Buddhist relics
* Mauryan fell after the death of a leader by one of his generals.
* The Silk Road was formed in the Kushan Empire, which allowed for a route between the Roman Empire and China.
	+ It was called this because of China’s most valuable product, silk.

**Gupta Empire**

* **Gupta Dynasty** – the golden age of India
	+ Learning, art, and literature flourished
	+ Mathematics: Arabic numeral system and the concept of zero
	+ Preserved the Hindu tradition
	+ Traded with China, Southeast Asia, and the Mediterranean

**Indian Contributions**

* The Vedas are the India’s oldest surviving literature
* India’s earliest examples of architecture and sculpture date from the time of Ashoka – carved stone pillars, Stupas, which aided in the spread of Buddhism
* Ancient Indians possessed an impressive amount of knowledge about astronomy.
	+ Under the Gupta Empire, scientists were able to determine that the earth revolved around the sun.
* Their most important work was done in the field of algebra.
	+ Mathematicians also introduced the concept of zero and introduced the symbol 0 for it.
* Metal working was also an important aspect of trade in Ancient Indian empires.

**China**

* **Trade**
	+ The agriculture surplus led to an increase in trade. The most important item was silk, and it was a closely guarded secret.
		- The Chinese were the first to spin silk into thread.
	+ SILK ROAD – the trade route that connected China to the West
		- Covered 4,00 miles – carried goods across land and water

**Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC)**

* Shi Huangdi- first emperor of China
	+ Unified china under a single leader
		- People who opposed his rule were punished or executed
	+ DRAMATICALLY CHANGED LIFE IN CHINA
		- Centralized government
		- Built roads and canals for travel and trade
		- Single currency
		- Unified written language
	+ Legalism was strongly enforced under this regime
	+ Qin bureaucracy was divided into 3 parts: civil division, military division, and censorate – who made sure other officials were doing their jobs.
	+ Accomplishments:
		- Great Wall of China: built to defend the country from invaders in the North
			* Longest man-made structure – over 3,948 miles
		- Terra Cotta Soldiers: Shihugandi’s tomb was filled with life-size terra cotta soldiers to protect him in the afterlife

**Han Dynasty (206 BC – AD 220)**

* + Han politics were focused on Confucianism, division of the government, and gaining leadership by civil service exams.
	+ Rulers were chosen by merit, not by birth.
		- They took civil service exams to earn government positions.
		- Han Wudi expanded the empire and continued to build on the Great Wall to challenge the Huns/Xiongnu to the north
	+ Advancements
		- Expanded the silk road
		- Paper – made with hemp/linen and bamboo
		- Acupuncture
		- Confucian schools
		- Introduced rudders for ships
		- Textiles – weaving cotton into cloth
	+ Fall of the Han
		- Weak rulers spent court money on lavish lifestyle