

THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION: A STUDY OF IT'S ORIGINS, ACHIEVEMENT AND DECLINE

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Abstract:

This paper seeks to study the origin, achievement and decline of The Indus valley civilization. The Indus Valley Civilization, also known as the Harappan Civilization, was one of the earliest urban civilizations in the world, thriving between approximately 2600 BCE and 1900 BCE. The civilization was located in the northwestern region of the Indian subcontinent, covering parts of what are now Pakistan and India. The Indus Valley Civilization was a complex society that was characterized by its impressive urban planning, sophisticated technology, social hierarchy, and economic specialization. The civilization's cities were well-planned, with well-organized streets, brick-lined drainage systems, public baths, and granaries, indicating a high degree of engineering and architectural skill. The civilization was also known for its advanced technology and craftsmanship. They developed a unique system of weights and measures, which were used to regulate trade, and they produced a range of high-quality goods, including pottery, jewelry, and figurines, that were traded with other civilizations. The Indus Valley Civilization was an advanced urban civilization, with well-planned cities and a sophisticated system of sanitation. They were also skilled in metallurgy, pottery, and seal carving. They developed a writing system using symbols that has yet to be fully deciphered. They traded with other civilizations, including Mesopotamia and the ancient Egyptians, and had a complex social hierarchy, with a ruling class, merchants, artisans, and farmers. The Indus Valley Civilization was known for its advanced technology and craftsmanship. They were skilled in metallurgy, producing copper, bronze, and tin objects, as well as in pottery and seal carving. The civilization also developed a writing system, known as the Indus script, which used a series of symbols that have yet to be fully deciphered. The decline of the Indus Valley Civilization is still a mystery, as there is no clear evidence of invasion, war, or natural disaster. Some theories propose that climate change, such as a prolonged drought, may have contributed to the decline, while others suggest that internal conflict, disease, or a decline in trade and economic resources may have been factors. Whatever the cause, the civilization began to decline around 1900 BCE, and its cities were gradually abandoned.

Keywords: Origin, Achievements, Decline, Indus Valley Civilization etc.

INTRODUCTION:

The Indus Valley Civilization is considered one of the earliest and most significant civilizations in human history, emerging around 2600 BCE in the northwestern regions of South Asia, in what is now modern-day Pakistan and western India. The civilization is also referred to as the Harappan Civilization, after the city of Harappa, one of the largest and most well-known settlements of the civilization. The Indus

Valley Civilization was a complex society that was characterized by its impressive urban planning, sophisticated technology, social hierarchy, and economic specialization. The civilization's cities were well-planned, with well-organized streets, brick-lined drainage systems, public baths, and granaries, indicating a high degree of engineering and architectural skill. The civilization was also known for its advanced technology and craftsmanship. They developed a unique system of weights and measures, which were used to regulate trade, and they produced a range of high-quality goods, including pottery, jewelry, and figurines, that were traded with other civilizations.

Despite its impressive achievements, the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization is still a topic of debate among scholars. Some suggest that the civilization declined due to environmental factors such as changes in climate or natural disasters, while others point to internal factors such as social or political upheaval. Nevertheless, the legacy of the Indus Valley Civilization is still visible in present-day South Asia, particularly in the practices and beliefs of Hinduism and other religions in the region. The civilization's sophisticated technology and urban planning have also been seen as an inspiration for later civilizations in the region. Overall, the Indus Valley Civilization is a fascinating topic of study that sheds light on the early origins of human civilization and the remarkable achievements of ancient societies.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

This paper seeks to study the origin, achievement and decline of The Indus valley civilization.

ORIGIN OF THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION:

The origins of the Indus Valley Civilization are still a matter of debate among historians and archaeologists. Some theories suggest that it was an indigenous development, while others propose that it was influenced by the Sumerian civilization of Mesopotamia. Recent evidence suggests that the civilization developed through a combination of indigenous development and contact with Mesopotamia. The Indus Valley Civilization emerged around 2600 BCE, and its earliest settlements were located along the Indus River and its tributaries in present-day Pakistan and western India. The civilization was preceded by smaller farming communities in the region, and its emergence was likely the result of a combination of factors, including population growth, trade, and technological advances. One of the unique features of the Indus Valley Civilization was its urban planning. Its cities were built on a grid system, with streets laid out in a north-south and east-west orientation. The cities also had sophisticated systems of drainage and sanitation, including indoor toilets and sewage systems.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

The Indus Valley Civilization was an advanced urban civilization, with well-planned cities and a sophisticated system of sanitation. They were also skilled in metallurgy, pottery, and seal carving. They developed a writing system using symbols that has yet to be fully deciphered. They traded with other civilizations, including Mesopotamia and the ancient Egyptians, and had a complex social hierarchy, with a ruling class, merchants, artisans, and farmers. The Indus Valley Civilization was known for its advanced

technology and craftsmanship. They were skilled in metallurgy, producing copper, bronze, and tin objects, as well as in pottery and seal carving. The civilization also developed a writing system, known as the Indus script, which used a series of symbols that have yet to be fully deciphered.

Trade and Connections: The Indus Valley Civilization was connected to other ancient civilizations through trade networks. They traded with Mesopotamia, the ancient Egyptians, and other regions of the Indian subcontinent. The civilization's merchants were skilled traders, exchanging goods such as cotton, spices, and precious stones for raw materials such as copper and tin. They also traded luxury goods such as ivory, gold, and lapis lazuli.

Art and Architecture: The Indus Valley Civilization is known for its distinctive art and architecture. They created a variety of objects, including pottery, figurines, and jewelry, many of which were decorated with intricate designs and patterns. The civilization also built impressive public structures, such as large granaries and public baths. Their cities were also protected by fortifications, indicating a need for defense.

Legacy: Despite its decline, the Indus Valley Civilization has had a lasting impact on South Asian culture. The civilization's writing system has yet to be fully deciphered, but scholars believe it may have influenced later writing systems in the region. The civilization's sophisticated technology and urban planning have also been seen as an inspiration for later civilizations in the region. Additionally, the civilization's cultural legacy is still visible in present-day South Asia, particularly in the practices and beliefs of Hinduism and other religions in the region.

The civilization also had a complex social hierarchy, with a ruling class that controlled the cities, as well as merchants, artisans, and farmers. Archaeological evidence suggests that there was a great deal of economic specialization within the civilization, with different regions producing different types of goods that were then traded throughout the region and beyond.

DECLINE:

The decline of the Indus Valley Civilization is still a mystery, as there is no clear evidence of invasion, war, or natural disaster. Some theories propose that climate change, such as a prolonged drought, may have contributed to the decline, while others suggest that internal conflict, disease, or a decline in trade and economic resources may have been factors. Whatever the cause, the civilization began to decline around 1900 BCE, and its cities were gradually abandoned. One theory suggests that the decline was caused by environmental factors, such as a prolonged drought or changes in the course of the rivers that supported the civilization's agriculture. Another theory suggests that social and political instability, including conflicts between different regions of the civilization, may have contributed to its decline. Regardless of the cause, the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization had significant consequences for the region. The cities were gradually abandoned, and the population shifted to rural areas. The civilization began to decline around 1900 BCE, and its cities were gradually abandoned. The civilization's writing system was eventually lost, and its cultural legacy was absorbed into later South Asian cultures.

CONCLUSION:

The Indus Valley Civilization was a complex and sophisticated civilization that emerged around 2600 BCE and was located in what is now present-day Pakistan and western India. The civilization was known for its advanced technology and craftsmanship, urban planning, social hierarchy, and economic specialization. However, its decline is still a topic of debate among scholars, and the civilization's writing system has yet to be fully deciphered. Despite its decline, the civilization has had a lasting impact on South Asian culture and is considered one of the earliest and most impressive civilizations in human history.

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