

INDO-GREEKS(PART-2)

B.A. (HISTORY) PART-1 PAPER-1

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INDO-GREEK KINGDOM

Coins of Indo-Greeks

- ◉ Coins circulated to the north of Hindu Kush region during the rule of Indo-Greeks
 1. There were gold, silver, copper and nickel coins
 2. The coins had Greek legends
 3. The Indo-Greek coins had royal portraits on the obverse and Greek deities (*Zeus, Apollo, and Athena*) on the reverse.
- ◉ Coins circulated to the south of Hindu Kush region during the rule of Indo-Greeks
 1. There were gold, silver, copper and nickel coins

DECLINE

2. The coins had Greek legends
3. They had bilingual inscriptions – Greek and Kharoshthi
4. On the obverse of the coin, royal portraits were present and on the reverse, religious symbols (mostly Indian in inspiration) were present

Decline of the Indo-Greek Kingdom

- ⦿ The last Indo-Greek king was Strato II. He ruled the Punjab region until 55 BC, some say until 10 AD.
- ⦿ Their rule ended with the invasions of the Indo-Scythians (Sakas).
- ⦿ It is believed that Greek people lived for several centuries more in India under the Indo-Parthians and the Kushans.

INFLUENCE ON INDIAN CULTURE

The Greek artistic approaches largely influenced on Indian art by the Buddhist tradition and persisted into the later Gupta period. The Greeks are very famous for their innovative and the anthropomorphic representation of the Buddha in Indian sculpture . The *Gandhara School of Buddhist art* grown up under the great influence of the Greeks. The Greek initiation of sculpting the Buddha in human form matured and it became a major part of the Buddhist iconography. The Greeks also introduced their own architectural and sculptural forms, like cupids, friezes and Corinthian columns into the Buddhist school. Several Greek mythological figures were incorporated into Buddhist architectural works, including Heracles, who became equated to Vajrapani. The Greek skills and techniques were endured till the epoch of Gupta. Gupta's realistic anthropomorphic representations of the Buddha reflect the legacy of the Greek artistic influence.

INFLUENCE ON INDIAN CULTURE

In short the complex political and undeveloped social factors were the reason of Greek influence on Indian culture, art and many other fields of life. Somehow these influences can be finding even in present Indian society. For Instance, Zodiac is widely known in Indian astrological practice. And Indian people commonly use some names that are signed with Greeks in some aspects. The Temples of ancient India era and particularly the Buddhist Stupas are ever considered the major and the most important Indian heritage. Thus, in this way the Greek influence in present era is a prominent element of India's cultural heritage.

