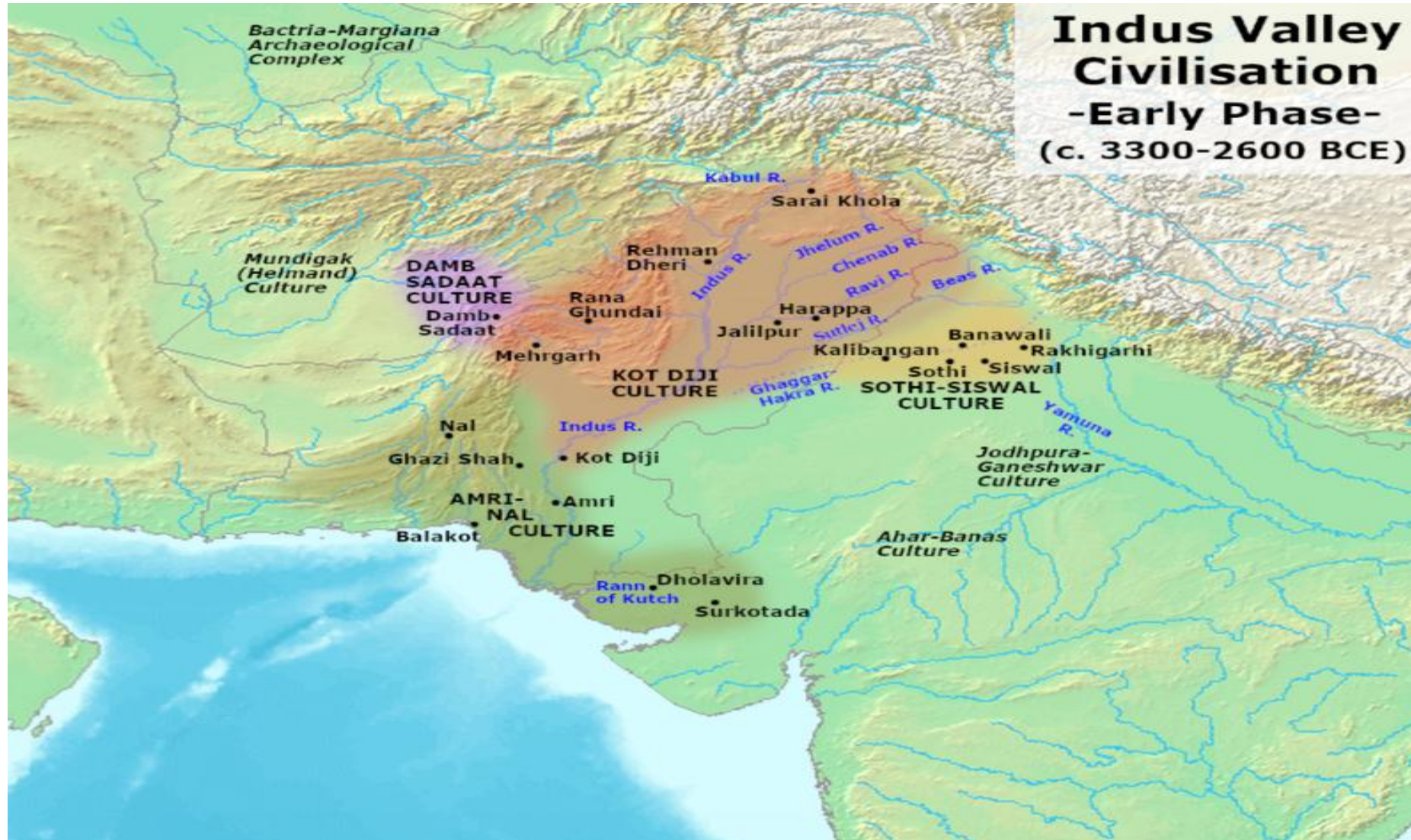


INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION (PART-1) B.A.HISTORY(HONS) PAPER-1

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INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

Discovery Of Indus Valley Civilization was an epoch making event that occurred in the year 1921 and which enriched the content of Indian history, culture and archaeology. Dayaram Sahani discovered the famous Harappa in 1921. In 1922 R.D. Banerjee discovered Mohenjodaro. The final discovery of Indus or Harappan civilization in 1921-1922 placed India on the world map along with ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt, as an area where the earliest civilizing processes were initiated and developed. From 1921-22 till the recent excavations at Dholavira in Gujarat and Rakhigarhi in Haryana, witnessed sustained archaeological explorations and large scale excavations at various sites in India and Pakistan.

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The entire area of the Harappan civilization is triangular in form and accounts for about roughly 1,299,600 sq. km., and as such was the largest amongst the ancient civilizations. In precise terms, the civilization extended from Suktagendor, on the Makran coast in Baluchistan in the west to Alamgirpur in Western Uttar Pradesh in the east, and from Manda in Jammu in the Bhagatrar in Narmada Estuary in the south. As far as chronology is concerned different scholars have different views.

1. Sir John Marshal 3250-2750 BCE
2. Mackay 2800-2500 BCE
3. Stuart Piggot 2500-1500 BCE
4. S.M.Wheeler 2500-1500 BCE

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5. Walter Fair Service 2000-1500 BCE (on the basis of carbon dating)

6. D. P . Agarwal 2300-1750 BCE

The Indus or Harappan Civilization belonged to the Proto historic period since it represented a phase in which people had developed a script and written records were available. Despite repeated attempts by the researchers the script has not yet been deciphered. But scholars agree that this civilization belonged to Bronze Age. The people of this civilization used bronze on a large scale and were urban in character.

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ORIGIN

Various views have been expressed by the scholars.

- Earliest Western Scholars believed that this civilization was not an indigenous one
- Some are of the view that it was a colony of Sumerian people
- Discovery of the extraordinary complex of culture sites on the Bolan River around Mehargarh by French archaeologist J.F.Jarriage in 1975 led to the conclusion that the roots of this civilization lie deep in Indian soil
- A. Ghosh also supported the indigenous theory and argued that the Harappan Culture owes its basic existence to the indigenous culture, though it could have borrowed some features from both Sumeria and Baluchistan. (To be Continued)