

Vedic Age

Vedic period identification is connected to the disputed Aryan invasion theory. As per this theory, the Harappan civilisation or Indus Valley of Northern India, was founded by Dravidians. Then, about 1,500 B.C.E., softer conquerors called the Aryans pushed these same Dravidians south.

- Invaders are said to have started in Iranian regions; some moved west. As a result, Indo-European languages descended from the same parent tongue are linguistic siblings. Moreover, this theory parallels the contents of the Vedas with Zoroastrianism."
 - The total lack of any customs or tales describing such an incursion is an objection against such a theory, which has been derived from the linguistic work of F. Max Müller[2].
 - According to the invasion theory, Vedic period literature began as an oral history created outside India. Feuerstein, Kak, Frawley, and others think the invasion of Aryan was simply an "academic purpose."
 - Aryans, who inhabited the Indus Valley over several millennia, derived their Sanskrit language from earlier Indo-European languages."
 - Edward Pococke, a 19th-century writer who might or might not be connected to the sixteenth-century orient and bore the same name, suggested a different theory.
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- Pococke argued that the Greek language is indeed a derivation from Sanskrit; so Sanskrit individuals who speak this language, Indians, should have dwelt in Greece, and" they "should have primitive colonists."
 - Pococke argues that "language," "philosophy," "religion," in addition to the "rivers" and "mountains," in addition to her "subtle kind of intellect" and "politics," all indicate that Greek was "invaded and conquered from India."

Historical Restoration of Vedic Period

The reconstruction of Vedic India's history is based on literary sources. In linguistic terms, Vedic texts can be categorised chronologically as follows:

Rigvedic Period texts: Although becoming the earliest of the surviving Vedic texts, the Rigveda maintains several joint Indo-Iranian components in language as well as the content. These are not found in other Vedic texts.

- Its creation must have lasted centuries; if not for the oldest books, it should have been finished by the year 1000 B.C.E.
- There is a possibility that this period relates to the Gandhara Grave Culture, or Cemetery H civilization of Punjab, and the Ochre Coloured Porcelain culture (OCP) to the east.
- The continuity of the Indus Valley society is not commonly acknowledged archaeologically or culturally. There is no widely recognized archaeological or cultural proof of the Indus Valley society's continuity. "Veda" literally means "learning in the Vedic age."

Language of the mantra: This phase involves the mantra mix prose languages of Atharvaveda, and Rigveda Khilani, this same Samaveda Samhita (which contains over 75 chants not present inside the Rigveda), as well as the chants of a Yajurveda. Several of these texts were based on the Rigveda that has changed due to complete change or reinterpretation.

- Significant changes include the replacement of vishva with sarva and the spreading of the kuru-verbal stem. This is the early Iron Age in northwest India, related to a Black and

Red Ware (B.R.W.) culture and the Kurus kingdom, which originates around the tenth century B.C.E.

Samhita prose: In this era, the Vedic canon's collection & compilation begins. This period is reflected by the Brahmana division of the Black Yajurveda (M.S., K.S., T.S.).

Prose from Brahmana: This era comprises the four Vedas' Brahmanas, in addition to the Aranyakas, and oldest Upanishads (B.A.U., Chu, and J.U.B.) as well as the earliest Shrautasutras (B.S.S., VadhSS).

Sutra language: The most recent stage of Vedic Sanskrit, spanning about 500 B.C.E., which contains the Rauta and Grhya Sutras, as well as specific Upanishads (e.g., Kathy, Maitri). Apart from the five prose Upanishads, everyone is post-Buddhist. In North Bihar, Videha is an established third political party.

Epic & Paninian Sanskrit: Epics such as Ramayana and Mahabharata, along with Panini's Classic Sanskrit, date back to after 500 B.C.E. During this period, Northern Black Polished Ware (N.B.P.) spread rapidly throughout northern India. This era also includes the earlier Gautama Buddha, the Pali Prakrit idiom of the Buddhist era, and the Vedanta.

Till the end of the Vedic age, historical records appeared and remained sparse right through the Indian Middle Ages. Language, political changes, and economics herald the ending of Vedic India. Classical Sanskrit begins with Panini's grammar, which marks the end of the codification of the Sutra texts. The conquest of the Indus Valley by Darius I in the early 6th century B.C.E. marks the start of outside impact, which persisted in the Indo-Greek kingdoms. In 150 BCE, new waves of migration emerged (Abhira and Shaka), then Kushan, and then the Islamic Sultanate.

Dasas and Dasyus in Rig Vedic Period

The Vedic individuals are famous as Aryans. Rajan was the term given to the leader of each tribe. Rajan was selected as the group's leader among its members. **Dasas and Dasyus UPSC** is one of the essential topics.

- The Rig Veda is the oldest, divided into ten Mandals, and contains 1028 hymns in the Sanskrit language. The melodies in it were composed in honour of the deities of nature, Indra & Varuna.
- This explains why the Vedic people were mainly concerned with livestock and agriculture rearing, and the Vedic people valued natural forces such as rainfall, wind, and sun. As a consequence, individuals were worshipped and treated as Gods.
- Dasa has 54 hymns plus 63 verses, while Dasyus has 65 hymns & 80 verses.
- The Rig Vedic culture recognizes the conflict between the Dasas & Dasyus, and Aryans. It portrays Dasas and Dasyus as individuals who do not perform sacrifices or accept the Commandments of God. Their language is referred to as 'Mishra.' Dasas and Dasyus were ancient Indo-Aryan immigrants to the globe who arrived long earlier than Vedic Aryans.
- Non-Aryans are alluded to as Dasas and Dasyus inside the Rig Veda.

Sabha and Samiti in Vedic Period

Both Sabha and Samiti are referred to as Prajapati's daughters. Both were movable corps headed by chiefs who moved with the army.

Sabha:

Sabha indicates the congregation (during the early Rig Vedic period) and the conference hall (During the later Rig Vedic period). Sabhavati women also were represented at this assembly. However, it was mainly a kin-based gathering, and women also were not allowed to attend until later in Vedic times. The Sabha is also described in Rigveda as a dicing and gambling assembly and a venue for dancing, music, witchcraft, and magic. It debated pastoral issues, performed judiciary and administrative functions, and exercised legal power.

Samiti:

The considerations to Samiti arrive from the most recent books of the Rig-Veda of the Vedic age, suggesting that it grew important until the end of the Rigvedic period. Samiti was a tribal council wherein members of the tribe gathered to conduct tribal business. It covered philosophical issues as well as religious ceremonies and prayers. According to the sources, Rajan was elected or re-elected by the Samiti.

Dissimilarities between Sabha and Samiti

The sole difference between Sabha and Samiti is that Sabha performed judicial functions, whereas Samiti did not. Eventually, the Sabha degenerated into a minor aristocratic body, and the Samiti disappeared.

What is the Rig Vedic Period?

The Rig Veda, or the **Rig Vedic period**, is mainly a compilation of religious songs that reference but do not analyse various myths or tales. This document may be the oldest literary work in the world.

There are many elements inherited from pre-Vedic, shared Indo-Iranian society in the oldest hymns, especially in books 2-7, the Soma Mandala, which is even older. It is difficult to determine when the "Rig vedic period" began since it emerged seamlessly from the preceding age. Also, because the society described is semi-nomadic, it is not easily localised and represents tribes that were constantly on the road in its initial stages.

Organisational Structure in Vedic Age

The grama (Waggon train), vis, or Jana were early Vedic age Aryan political entities. A Vish was a division of a Jana or "Drishti," and a great grandma was the lowest measurement unit between the two. The Grama's leader was referred to as Gramani, and the Vish's leader was recognized as a Vishapati. A Rajan (chief, 'king') governed the Rashtra (polity). Generally, kings are called Gopas (protectors) and Samrat's (supreme rulers).

Economy and society:

- 1300 BCE ceramic goblet from Navdatoli, Malwa. In the Vedic scriptures, marriage regulations and varna (class) were rigid (RV 10.90). The Brahmins & Kshatriyas had more excellent classes as compared to the Vaishyas and Shudras.
- Many types of rituals were performed by the Brahmins, including writing poetry and preserving sacred texts. They served as intellectual leaders while limiting social mobility between the varnas in fields such as science, military, art, religion, and the environment.
- Proper diction of poems in the ritual was thought to be essential for prosperity & victory in battle or harvest. As a result, Kshatriyas acquired wealth (cattle), and many commissioned sacrifices were to be made.

Religious Practices in Vedic Period

Vedic beliefs have been the originators of modern Hinduism. The four Vedas are the best-known texts from the Vedic period, but the Brahmanas, oldest Shrautasutras, older Upanishads, and Aranyakas, are also regarded as Vedic. There are 16 or 17 Shrauta priests and purohitas who conduct rituals and sacrifices according to the Vedas.

The rishis, the authors of the Rgvedic hymns, were regarded as gifted poets & seers. The worship manner was the sacrifice, which incorporated reciting Rgvedic verses, singing Samans, and muffle mantras (Yajus). In Vedic society, priests conducted rituals for three upper varnas, rigorously excluding Sudras. The people are begging for rain, livestock, sons, long lives, and even entrance into 'heaven.'

