

Chapter 9: State, Society, and the Quest for Salvation in India

Dynasties

1. What is the key idea about the dynasties in this chapter?

Maurya Dynasty

2. How did Alexander the Great help lead to the establishment of the Maurya dynasty?

3. What was the *Arthashastra*?

4. What was Kalinga? Why would Ashoka have begun his rule by conquering it?

5. What steps did Ashoka take to solidify his rule?

6. How did Ashoka help spread Buddhism?

Gupta Dynasty

7. How did the Gupta dynasty compare in size and administration to the Mauryan dynasty?

8. What is so fancy about “Arabic” numerals, which were actually invented by the Guptas?

New Indian Religions

Note that each of these religions contains certain “universal” truths.

Jainism

9. In what key doctrines do Jainists believe?

10. Why was Jainism important historically and socially?

Buddhism

11. What led Siddhartha Gautama to start Buddhism?

12. What are the core beliefs of Buddhism?

13. How did Buddhist monasteries become ingrained in the local villages of Asia?

14. Describe the gender roles popular in India at this time.

15. What key figures/peoples helped Buddhism spread?

16. Why was Buddhism so popular?

17. Describe the differences between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism.