

Chapter 3 - Ancient and Early Medieval India

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Transcript

Speaker 1

Hello Today's podcast is on ancient and early medieval India, chapter 3. India is a land of rich history, diverse cultures and profound intellectual and artistic achievements. In this podcast, we will embark on a journey through time, exploring the major civilizations, urban developments, and historical milestones that shaped ancient and purely medieval. Now join me as we explore a captivating story of this vibrant and influential region. Our journey, of course, as we know from our text, begins with the Indus Valley Civilization, one of the world's earliest urban civilizations that lie from around 2600 BCE to 1900 BC. The Indus Valley Civilization, also known as the Harappan Civilization, was characterized by sophisticated urban planning, advanced drainage systems, and a script that has yet to be fully deciphered. The city's avoided Adaro and Harappa among the major centers of this remarkable civilization. This value civilization engaged in long distance trade, but a complex social structure and showcase from lawful artistic and craftsmanship skills. While much about their society and culture remains a mystery. The legacy serves as a testament to the ingenuity and achievements of ancient India. The Indus Valley Civilization, one of the earliest urban civilizations in the world. Have urged them all. The banks of the Indus River in present day Pakistan and northwest India. The presence of a reliable water source and fertile land contributed to the growth of well-planned cities. Sites of trade networks and sophisticated transmission. The geography of South Asia presented both challenges and opportunities to ancient Indian societies. Roads, droughts and other natural disasters were constant threats to agricultural communities. However, the people of ancient India developed sophisticated irrigation systems, water management techniques. And adapted agricultural practices to overcome these challenges. The presence of mountain ranges and diverse ecosystems also contributed to the development of spiritual and philosophical traditions in ancient India, the mountains, forests and rivers were seen as sacred and played a significant role in religious and cultural practices. The geographical diversity of India has contributed to its cultural environmental richness. Any is known towards linguistic and ethnic diversity, but numerous languages, religions and cultural traditions coexisted within its borders. The very geographical features have influenced the development of different regional cuisines, art forms and architectural style. Yeah. As we go deeper into the fascinating history of India's first major civilization, the Indus Valley Civilization, we now see that expand from approximately 2600 BC to 1700 BC. The ancient civilizations emerged in the fertile banks of the Indus River and left behind a rich legacy of sophisticated. Urban planning, intricate craftsmanship, and intermatic script yet to be fully deciphered. The Indus River Valley Civilization is also known as the Harappan Civilization. Rapid civilization was first discovered in the early 20th century through archaeological excavations in present day Pakistan and northwest India. Its existence and significance were initially underestimated, but subsequent discoveries reveal the magnitude and complexity. Of this ancient civilization. The civilizations heartland stretched from the Indus River and its tributaries and encompassing parts of modern and Pakistan and northwest India. It extended over a vast area with various but major urban centers such as Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, as well as numerous small cells that scattered throughout the region. One of the most striking features of the Indus Valley Civilization was its advanced urban planning. The cities

were meticulously laid out on the grid pattern design, which carefully designed streets, brick houses, and sophisticated cleaning systems. The planners of these cities demonstrated extraordinary understanding of hydraulic engineering and sanitation provided in their well-constructed sewage and drainage systems. These cities boasted impressive structures, including monumental public buildings, granaries, and even public baths. The great bath among Adaro Sands is the iconic example, showcasing the civilizations emphasis on hygiene, water management and communal life. Indus Valley civilization flourished as a major center of trade and commerce extended its influence beyond its borders. Archaeological evidence suggests that a Rapids engaged in long distance trade, establishing trade links with the spontania Afghanistan and other regions. Artifacts such as seals and pottery have been discovered in various parts of the ancient world. The testing for the civilizations commercial police, the presence of those seals and other square seals are darned with intricate engravings and writings. Indicates the existence of a script unique to the Indus Valley. As we said before, the script has not been deciphered. It points to a highly organized administrative system and perhaps a written language. The social structure of the Indus Valley civilizations believed to have been relatively egalitarian, which evidence suggested a lack of monumental structures dedicated to rulers or elites. The cities were characterized by well planned neighborhoods. Just in a degree of perfect quality and shared sense of community. Given this absence of monumental structures, associated political authority, it is plausible to consider alternative forms of governance within the Harappan civilization. One hypothesis is that local supplies of elites, such as powerful land owners or wealthy merchants, cover each city. The service could have conveyed the whole the siblings could have convened in the Great Hall of the Citadel, engaging in deliberations and decision making processes that shape the social and economic life of their respective communities. The weapon civilization with his uniformity in urban planning and standardized weights, presents us with intriguing questions about the political organizations and police. While we know that there is an absence of palaces or temples. That challenges our understanding of traditional power structures. As we've learned in the past, and thematic soap, stone sculptures and the possibility of local elite assemblies suggest alternative forms of governance within the civilization. As our knowledge continues to evolve, we strive to uncover more pieces of the puzzle and gain deeper understanding of this remarkable ancient civilization. That looks like in the end of falling. The client of the Indus Valley Civilization remains a topic of debate among historians and archaeologists. Various factors have been proposed, including environmental changes, natural disasters, or even internal conflicts. Regardless of the reason for its decline, the Indus Valley Civilization left a lasting impact. Of the suspect cultures and civilizations of the Indians the continent. But the religious beliefs of the industrial civilization remains somewhat elusive, as their language does. But the artifacts and symbols they have left behind provide us with intriguing insights into the spiritual world as we continue to study, interpret their archaeological evidence, we deepen our understanding that the conflicts. Religious fabric that shape the lives of the people of the Indus Valley Civilization. No, this brings us to what now is an eye chapter is referred to as. The Long Vedic age. Along the age emerged following the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization and marked the arrival of Indo Aryan people into the Indian subcontinent. These pastoral communities followed the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization. The Vedic period emerged around 1500 BC. The Vedas was the sacred text that was composed during this period and are the oldest scriptures of Hinduism and provide insights into the early religious and philosophical beliefs of ancient India. The Vedic period witnessed the arrival of these Endo Arians, who brought with them a pastoral and warrior culture. Vedic rituals, sacrifices and hymns played a central role in their religious practices. Over time, the Vedic tradition involved giving rise to various schools of philosophical thought and the concept of Dharma. Moral and social law. The

transition from the Indus Valley Civilization to the Vedic period was characterized by cultural assimilation and the gradual spread of Indo-European influence across the region. The Vedas, the sacred scripture of ancient India, are the cornerstone of the Long Vedic age. These texts, composed in Sanskrit, encompass a vast collection of hymns, rituals and philosophical treatises divided into 4 main collections from Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajurveda, and Atharva Veda. The Vedas provide performing insights into the religious beliefs and rituals of the time. The word Veda is the oldest and most revered. Vedic texts consist of hymns dedicated to various deities and natural forces. It consists of 1000. 28 Hims addressed to the peoples Pantodon thoughts, but it wasn't written down until 500 BCE. Rather, from the early as the beginning of the second millennium BC, these cells were poorly composed and frustrated by Aaron Court seers, eventually becoming the reserve of a few priestly clans who utilize them for the specific religious functions of pleasing all your powers. Release release of the Long Vedic age revolved around polytheism with that polyphenon of deities worshipped by the people. The God and goddess is depicted in the Rigveda were associated with natural forces and cosmic elements. These humans like powered by all of the force natural phenomenon so close to AIDS people living out on the plains were associated with the forces of light good in order by chanting hymns to them and sacrificing in the correct way. The Aaron Priest might secure blessings for the people of event, the demons and spirits on Earth from causing sickness and death. Many product deities venerated for their power and protection and control over different aspects of life. Andra was among the most beloved of the Vedic gods as the God of War and the storm, and as the Kingdom of gods. Indra exemplified traits men soul to embody in their lives is a great warrior who smites demons and inmates, but will also provides generously for the weak. Acme, another favorite, was God of fire and household heard acne summons the gods to the sacrifice and as intermediary between gods and human. Brings the sacrificial offering to them. The social structure of the Long Vedic AIDS was characterized by the movements of Varnum, a system of social classification based on the occupation and birth. The four main bonus were the Brahmins, which considered the priests, and scholars Lakisha Trials, warriors and rulers, Machias agriculturalists, traders, and merchants and merchants. Childress, laborers and servants of Honor System for the basis of the social hierarchy and division of Labor within society. Especially with this. Family and kinship ties were vital in the Phoenix Society. The picture of your family structure prevailing marriage is considered a sacred union. And played a significant role in the social fabric and the performance of rituals and religious obligations was highly. I have to tell you. At the end of a long, big age, there is a shift in philosophical thought occurred with the emergence of the component shots. These texts considered philosophical packages to the original Vedas, explore profound questions about the nature of reality, the self, the universe, the Punisher. Stoved into the concepts such as Brahman, which is ultimate reality, the individual self, and the pursuit of spiritual liberation or moksha. The partnerships challenged the external focus rituals of the earlier Vedic period, emphasizing introspection. Meditation and the result of spiritual knowledge. These philosophical developments laid the foundation. Of later schools of Indian philosophy influencing the evolution of Hinduism, Buddhism and of course China, ISM. The low leading era or age represents a significant phase in ancient Indian history. The composition of the Vedas, the province of politics, release and sacrificial rituals. The emergence of the Varna system and the philosophical development scene of the Palisades all shape religious, social and cultural landscape of ancient India. As we explore further, we'll see in a deeper appreciation of all of these great beliefs, traditions and ideas that have shaped Indian civilization. Throughout the millennia. Now as we move forward through our chapter, we would like to move forward to really understand which is now a major part of. Canadian civilization and that is the cascus that cause system. To understand the caste system, we must first contextualize it within the

broader historical landscape of ancient India. The caste system. Of course originated during the Vedic period. With groups in the social and religious practices of the time it evolved over centuries, becoming a complex system that permeated all aspects of life. That caste system, which also goes back to the earlier mentioning of what we discussed as the Varna divided society into the state social groups or varnas based on a person's birth and occupation. Now, as we established this caste system, we see that those four main varnas are still a major part of everyday life in the Indian subcontinent. The Brahmin class responsible religious rituals, studying and teaching the Vedas and providing spiritual guidance. The warrior and ruling class entrusted with the protection of society and the governance of the Kingdom, the Kshatriya, the merchant and agricultural class involved in trade, farming and commerce. The Assured labor and survey class responsible manual labor and providing services to the higher volumes. The highest part, of course, is the Brahmins and they enjoy the most privileged and health and civil power in religious intellectual domains. The tree is our. Political and military authority. Well, but she has engaged in economic activities. The lowest are at the bottom of the hierarchy and they face social and economic restrictions, often performing manual labor. This size, this caste system, of course, is very rigid. It only allows for limited social and occupational mobility within one's own farm. Individuals could improve their social standing through education, skill acquisition while performing virtuous acts. However, moving between varnas or was extremely rare and generally not allowed beyond those 4 bones, there was a group outside of the caste system. Known as untouchables, or. People that you did not touch. These individuals were considered impure, that performed tasks, polluting to society, such as handling their animals or cleaning sewage. They face severe social discrimination and were excluded from many aspects of daily life. The caste system, despite its ancient origins, continues to have an impact on Indian society. Decide today for the legal ban of the mid 20th century based discrimination. And inequalities presents challenging the challenging any journey towards social equality and inclusivity. We will now discuss the development of ancient Indians, religious and philosophical landscape, especially the emergence of Buddhism. Put this in followed by a profound challenge to the prevailing religious and social order of dominance. Now as we explore the origin and teachings in birth and impact of Buddhism, it is very special to understand the context in which Buddhism emerge. We must first examine the dominant religious system of ancient India. Brahminism was centered around the Vedic rituals and sacrifices were formed by the Brahmins. Religious authority and social dominance of the Brahmins were deeply entrenched in social fabric of ancient Indian society. You were gotcha was born in 6th century BC. Present day in Nepal. He belonged to a personally family but renounced his privileged life to seek enlightenment and the stand the nature of suffering in the world. After years of spiritual pursuit and meditation, he attained enlightenment and became the Buddha, meaning they'll they can one. Buddhist teachings, known as the Four Noble Truth and the Eightfold Path formed the core of Buddhism. 4 noble truth articulate the nature of suffering, its causes in the path to liberation from suffering, eightfold path provides a guidance on ethical conduct. Meditation and wisdom as a means to achieve enlightenment. Buddhism challenged several fundamental aspects of Brahminism like the complex ritualistic practice of Brahminism. Buddhism emphasizes inner transformation. Personal responsibility and direct experience of truth would have rejected. The authority of the Vedas and the caste system advocating for more egalitarian society. Furthermore, Buddha reject the notion of permanent self or soul. And so it. Propagated the concept of ultimate or non self. According to Buddhism, all phenomena including the self are impermanent and interconnected, leading to the dissolution of the ego and attainment of liberation. Buddhism gained significant popularity and spread rapidly throughout the ancient India and beyond. Buddhism teachings resonate to people from various social. Backgrounds offered a path to liberation and

a sense of purpose. The rise of Buddhism led to the decline of Brahminism dominance and reshaped the religious and social landscape of ancient India. The appeal of Buddhism inclusive philosophy focused on compassion and ethical conduct, attracted followers from diverse backgrounds. And as we see the emergence of Buddhism in ancient India pose A formidable challenge to the prevailing religious and social order of Providence. What Buddhist teachings offered an alternative path to liberation? Emphasizing personal transformation, ethical conduct and the dissolution of self. Buddhism Rise had a profound impact on Indian society, promoting social inclusivity and reshaping the religious and philosophical landscape. The legacy of Buddhism continues to be felt in modern day India and beyond as its teachings continue to inspire individuals on their spiritual journeys. Moving forward in time, we encountered 2 significant empires that shaped ancient and early medieval India. The Marian Empire and the Gupta Empire. Mario Empire leadership of Emperor Ashoka extended its influence over vast territory promoting Buddhism and establishing A centralized administration. Ashoka's inscriptions, known as the Edicts of Ashoka. Affect his commitment to moral governance and peaceful coexistence. But Gupta Empire, often referred to as the Golden Age of ancient India, witnessed advances in arts, science, mathematics and literature. The Gupta rulers patronized scholars, resulted in a flourishing of intellectual and cultural. The Gupta period mark they consolidation of Hinduism as the dominant religion in India. The transformation shaped the religious landscape of ancient India, contributing to the diversity of religious thought and practices. The interactions between Buddhism and Hinduism left a lasting impact on the culture, philosophy and spirituality of ancient India and continues to influence religious traditions in the present day. The early medieval age in India followed the decline of the Gupta Empire, or the period of political fragmentation. And regional kingdoms. Is there a saw the rise of various dynasties and the emergence of powerful regional powers which laid the foundation for subsequent Islamic invasions and establishment of Islamic states in India? In the 8th century onward, several Islamic invasions occurred primarily for the northwestern regions, marking the entry of Islam into the Indians of continent. These invasions were led by Muslim armies, including the Arabs, Gazania, Violets and the Guritz, who sought to expand their political and religious influence in the region. But very sold today was characterized at this time by a combination of political, military and cultural achievements. It introduced Islamic administrative systems, established A centralized governance structure, and encouraged the spread of Islam. The Sultans or Delhi implemented significant administrative reforms and launched military campaigns to expand their territories. Arrival of Islamic States in India brought about cultural interactions and exchanges between Islamic and indigenous Indian tradition. Persian and Arabic influence began to permeate Indian art, architecture, literature and music. The fusion of Islamic and Indian architectural styles gave rise to many different forms of. Art and architecture. The establishment of Islamic states in India also led to challenges and tensions, particularly in the religious and social spheres. The ruling elite, primarily Muslims, face attacks of governing predominantly Hindu population. While there were instances of religious conflicts, efforts were made to promote coexistence and synthesis of Islamic and indigenous Indian traditions. Islamic States of India left a lasting impact on the Subcontinent's history and culture. They introduced new administrative systems, legal frameworks and architectural styles. The influence of Persian and Arabic languages and literature on Indian language such as security is still evident today. But then they sultanate laid the foundation for Sanskrit Muslim empire such as the Mughal Empire, which further shaped Indian history. The early medieval age in India witnessed the arrival of savage of Islamic states, most notably the Delhi Sultanate. These Islamic states brought significant changes to political, cultural and social fabric of the subcontinent. While the period was marked by challenges and tensions, it also saw cultural interactions and synchronism between

Islamic and indigenous Indian. The legacy is like States and any is evident in various aspects of Indian history, architecture and cultural heritage that continue to shape the Nation Today. Spiritism is now one of the main systems that came out of this medieval age. Feudalism is a system of governance and land tenure that emerged in various parts of the world through the medieval period. In ancient India, feudalism developed as a response to political decentralization and the emergence of regional powers. It involves exchange of land for loyalty, protection and service, really complex web of relationships between the ruling elite and vassals, realism in ancient India is characterized by a pyramid like social structure. The top some monarch or king ultimate power, and all vast territories. Below the king were feudal Lords or nobles who have large land estates or feasts. These nobles, known as zamindars, acted as fossils to the king and own military service and loyalty in return for their land. The nobles further subdivide their land holdings and granted smaller states to lesser Lords and warriors, being so vessels known as samosas served as commanders and administrators within their respective territories. They in turn granted land to peasants and laborers who formed the agricultural backbone of the feudal system. Land tenure formed the foundation of this feudal system. The king of Noble Grantland to the vassals, who divided and triggered among their sub vassals. The land was considered the property of the king or noble, and individuals held in exchange for military service, tribute and other obligations. The obligations of the vassals included providing military support. The higher-ranking Lords participated in warfare and maintain law and order within the territories. Peasants and turn were obligated to cultivate the land, pay rent, or taxes, provide labor or other services to the high-ranking Lords. Feudalism in ancient India played a significant role in shaping the social order and relationship within society. The hierarchical structure of feudalism reinforce social divisions and stratification. The ruling elite, comprised of the king and noble, enjoy privileges, wealth and power, while the presence of laborers face various forms of exploitation and a limited social mobility. Feudalism in ancient Indian, however, faced several challenges and with changes over time as central authority weakened and regional powers were stronger, the feudal Lords became increasingly independent and began asserting. Their own author. This led to conflicts and power struggles between different entities. Additionally, as trade and commerce expanded, urban centers grew. And the economic opportunities emerge the importance of land ownership as the primary basis of power and wealth began to diminish the rise of virtual communities and the growth of urban society gradually related to dominates the fuel system. Federalism in ancient India was a social economic system that emerged during the medieval period. Characterized by that hierarchical structure of land ownership obligations and power relations. The feudal structure plays significant role in shaping society, governance and relationships. As we now close out our chapter. The last want to talk about the Chola dynasty. The joy of Dynasty was a powerful ruling dynasty that existed from 9th century CE to the 13th century CE and the Southern region of the Indian subcontinent, primarily in present day Nadu. The Chola Empires military campaign extended their influence as far. As Sri Lanka. And all these parts of Southeast Asia and even reached the shores of the. Ganges River in north India. In addition to the military and political achievements that show us made significant contributions to art, architecture, literature and administration, they patronized the construction of. Temples, which stand as a testament to their architectural brilliance. The dynasty says of the testament to the power and achievements and also the cultural brilliance of ancient South India. The military conquests, architectural marvels, patron of the arts and administrative excellence have left an indelible mark on history and heritage of the. Region the stroller dynasties legacy continues to be celebrated and admired for significant contributions to the cultural, political, and artistic landscape of ancient India, although any remaining. Lake Estates during the period 300 to 600 BC, the stores recognize the time as a distinct. Because of the Gupta Empire, which

included most of northern India and facets of. The Gupta period. Society and cultural suggested in its civilization had matured and entered a classical age. On facet was the individual achievements in literature, the Arts and Sciences, but equally as important, the lives of all members of the society. Are now being shaped and given meaning by political pattern, political pattern included. For example, notions of kingship and kings, Dharma as well as political hierarchy. Social institutions include the Patriarch of Family Pharma and tasks and commercial associations in cities and town. As for religious traditions, we have focused on development of Hinduism and Buddhism and how they shape the religious landscape with their long literary and scriptural traditions, notions of Dharma and monastic and temple.

Speaker 2

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