

# INDIAN HISTORY AND Its Relevance

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# Introductory Remarks: Relevance of Past

- ▶ Prelim. Comments NO HISTORY PLZ.
- ▶ Why History? Value of Historical Knowledge interrelationship between Past, Present and Future. History -The mother of social sciences- “A society without history is like a man without memory. Not to know what took place before you were born is to remain for ever a child”. Doctor-Patient relation-
- ▶ History & Society: Historical Consciousness and Nation Building. Ex: Greek, Rome, China, Jews, Arabs.

# HISTORY

- ▶ It is essential if we are to understand the present, and how the world has come to be what it is now. History offers us a contrast which enables us to appreciate the present by a study of the past. A picture of the state of nature depicted by Hobbes/Locke would be enough to know from which stage of savagery man has come to the present level of culture.
- ▶ History could always be a measure or a barometer to know how much progress we have made over the past. History illustrates general laws governing society. Its value lies in the fact that these laws apply to our own time and that a knowledge of them enables us to deal more wisely with the future.

# HISTORY

- ▶ History & Society: Historical Consciousness and Nation Building. Ex: Greek, Rome, China, Jews, Arabs.
- ▶ Why some not others possess Historical Consciousness. Case of INDIA
- ▶ Great Statesmen of the World & sense of Past Karl Marx, Lenin, Churchill, Nehru, Mao-Tsetung,
- ▶ State of Historical Discipline: Hierarchy of Social Science Discipline.

# HISTORY

INDIAN CIVILIZATION-UNIQUE FEATURES-5000 YEARS OF HISTORY

UNITY IN DIVERSITY-MULTIPLICITY- REGIONS,REGIONS, LANGUAGES, ETHNICITIES,  
SOCIAL FORMATIONS...

THREE PERIODS - ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL AND MODERN.

EARLY CIVILISATIONS --- INDUS / HARAPPAN : SALIENT FEATURES , URBANISATION -  
CITY PLANNING MARITIME TRADE / RELIGION MOTHER GODDESS

VEDIC CIVILISATIONS - EARLY AND LATER

RIGVEDA - SOCIAL FORMATION -- VARNA / JATI

# HISTORY

- ▶ Later Vedic Civilization / emergence of caste system - Political formation ( Rajanya / Purohitha )
- ▶ Vedic rituals / sacrifices - Philosophy / Upanishads
- ▶ Notions of Karma - Rebirth / Sin / Virtue / Heaven and Hell
- ▶ Later Vedic religious practices / Yagnas / Yagas / Animal Sacrifices
- ▶ Rejection of later Vedic Brahmanical Hinduism - Critic of Priestly domination
- ▶ Raise of protestants sets in Ancient India - Charvakas, Lokayats, Jainism and Buddhism

# HISTORY

- ▶ Socio-religious conditions in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC-E
- ▶ Mahaveera and Budha
- ▶ Spread of New religious movements in North India and its impact on society -- Nalanda University and spread of Buddhist learning
- ▶ The emergence of Major kingdoms / 16 Mahajanapadas, Maghada, Maurya, Gupta etc.,
- ▶ Salient features of Ancient Polity/ Administration - Centralized polity - Bureaucracy, Urban Administration - and local self government

# HISTORY

- ▶ Ancient Indian society, culture and religion
- ▶ Advent of foreigners - Indo-Greeks, Sakas, Yavanas, Kushans and their contribution to Indian religion and culture
- ▶ Gandhara art - cultural syntheses, literature, art and architecture,
- ▶ The advent of Islam and the establishment of Muslim rule in India
- ▶ Delhi Sultans, Bahamanis, Mughals
- ▶ Bhakti movement and Sufism- interface between Hinduism and Islam
- ▶ Salient features of Medieval polity and administration



# HISTORY

- ▶ Modern India and the establishment of British rule in India, 1757 to 1947
- ▶ Importance of battle of Plessey - conquest of Bengal - Robert Clive and his contribution for the establishment of East India Company rule in India
- ▶ Administrative and Economic reforms under the E.I.C Land reforms
- ▶ Introduction of Modern Education ( Secular and Scientific )  
Judicial reforms and the establishment of Rule of Law
- ▶ Colonial Modernization and the emergence of modern India

# HISTORY

- ▶ 1857 revolt and the abolition of E.I.C rule
- ▶ Impact of Sepoy revolt and the emergence of Indian Nationalism
- ▶ Racial discrimination and Indian resistance
- ▶ Establishment of centralized Polity and administration by the British
- ▶ Introduction of railways and Modern means of communication
- ▶ Press, Media and Modern journalism
- ▶ Social reform movements - Raja Ram Mohan Roy and his contribution
- ▶ Christian Missionaries and their contribution to lower castes reform

# HISTORY

- ▶ Indian freedom struggle - three phases
- ▶ 1885 to 1905 - Moderate phase
- ▶ 1905 to 1920 Extremist phase
- ▶ 1920 to 1947 Gandhian Era
- ▶ Lal, Bal, Pal, and the agitation for constitution reforms
- ▶ The partition of Bengal and the rise of extremism
- ▶ Home rule movement and Annie Besant
- ▶ Rise of extremism

# HISTORY

- ▶ Gandhi and the National movement
- ▶ Non- Cooperation movement , 1920-1922
- ▶ Civil disobedience movement, 1930-1932
- ▶ The quit India Movement, 1942
- ▶ Second World War and constitutional reforms
- ▶ Cripps Mission, weave plan and cabinet Mission
- ▶ 1945 -1947 developments
- ▶ Communal riots, workers strikes, peasant movements and Navel mutiny
- ▶ Partition and freedom