

Attachment B: Notes on History of South Asia

- Indus Civilization (2500–1500 B.C.)
 - Civilization grew on banks of the Indus River in what is today Pakistan.
 - Cities became highly advanced, with grid planning, interior plumbing, and granaries.
 - Hieroglyphic script, which has yet to be deciphered, was developed.
 - Invasions and drought caused slow decline.
- Aryan Period (1500–400 B.C.)
 - Nomadic, illiterate warriors drove south into the Deccan plateau.
 - A strict caste system evolved based on lineage.
 - Hinduism was formed and practiced for the first time.
- Imperial Period (400 B.C.–100 A.D.)
 - Hellenistic Greeks invaded and influenced Indian art and philosophy.
 - The Mauryan Empire (ca. 200 B.C.) excelled in administration and philosophy.
 - The Gupta Empire (ca. 320 A.D.) excelled in science, literature, and the arts.
 - Sanskrit was developed as the sacred language of Hinduism and Buddhism.
- Medieval Period (1000–1600 A.D.)
 - Muslims invaded from Persia.
 - Rivalry between southern Hindus and northern Muslims erupted into battles over trade routes with Chinese and Europeans.
- Imperialist Era (1600–1947)
 - Vasco da Gama reached India in 1498 and was followed by many Europeans.
 - Battles took place over which European nation would dominate India.
 - The British East India Company was created in South Asia about 1750.
 - Greater India became a crown colony after the Sepoy rebellion in 1857.
 - Resistance movements against British rule surfaced around 1900.
 - The Partition and its impact
 - Mohandas K. Gandhi and independence