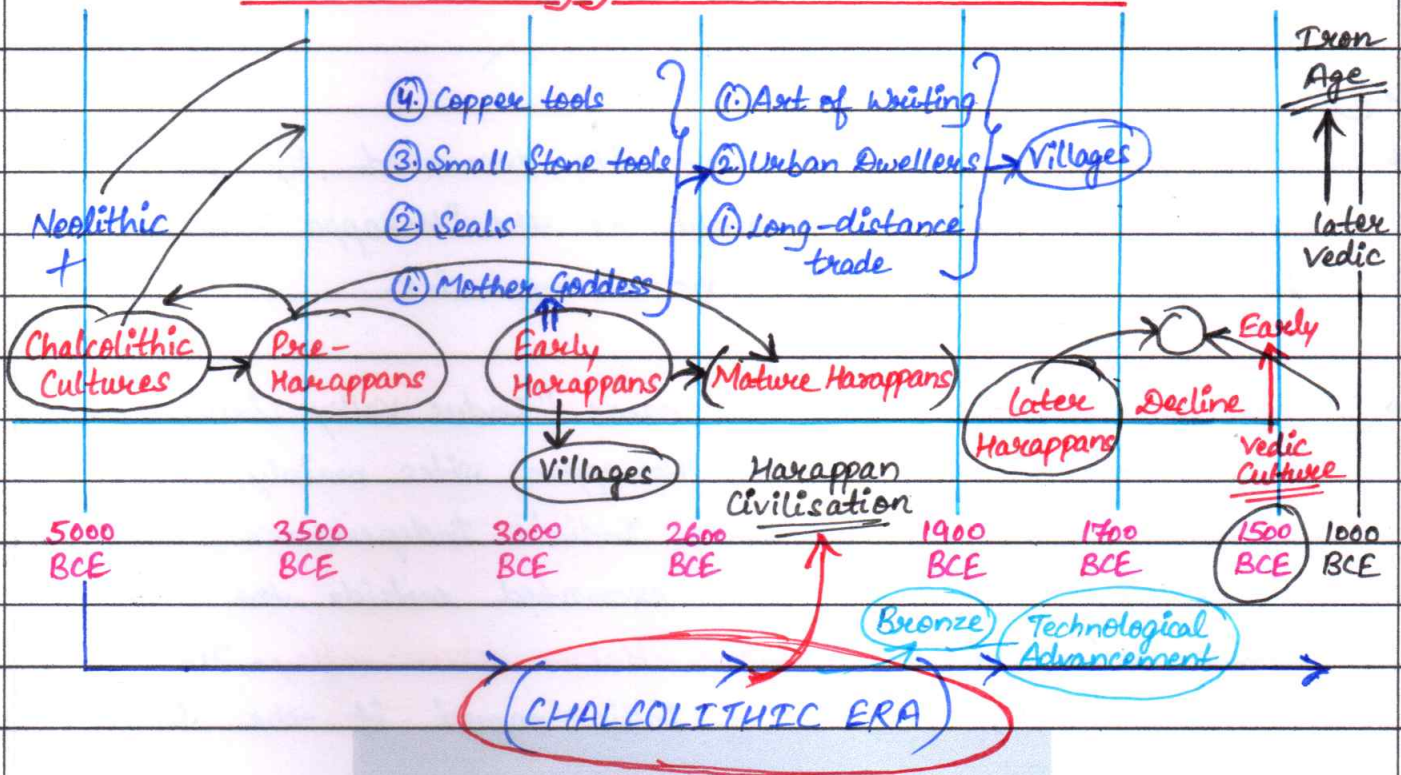
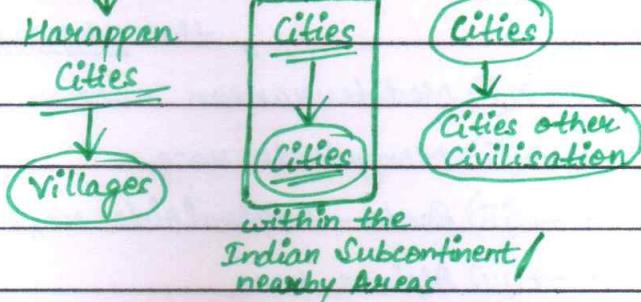


## The Harappan Civilisation



Origin:

$$R_1 + R_2 + R_3 = \text{Harappan Civilisation}$$



## Origin of Harappans

- ① Born out of the womb of Indian Subcontinent in 1922, the sites of Harappa and Mohenjodaro were discovered by the scholars like Daya Ram Sahni and Rakhal Das Banerjee

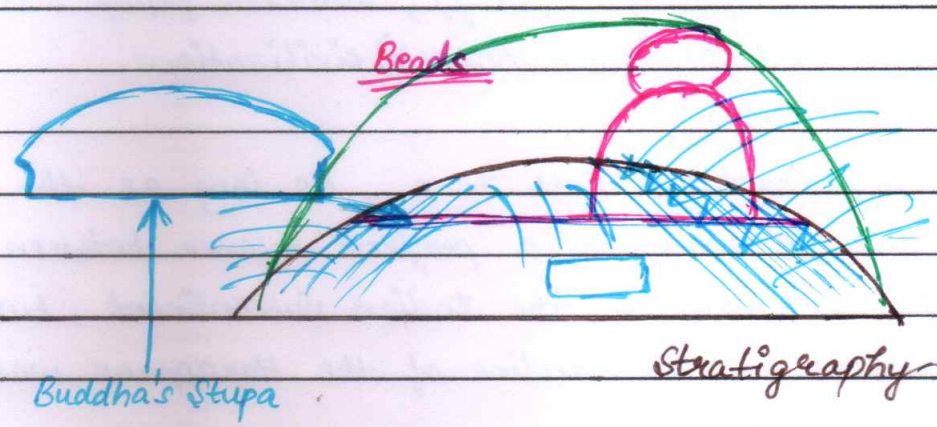
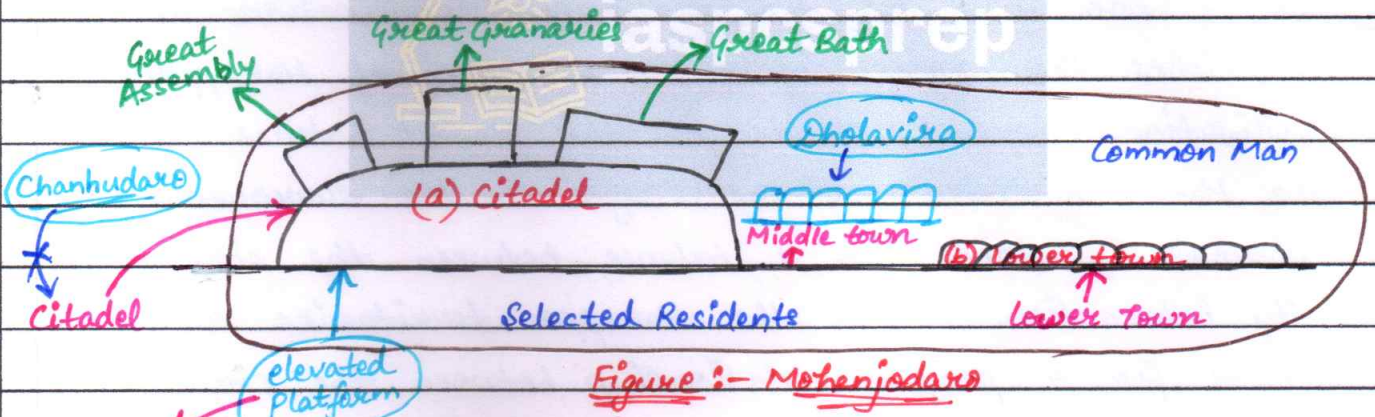
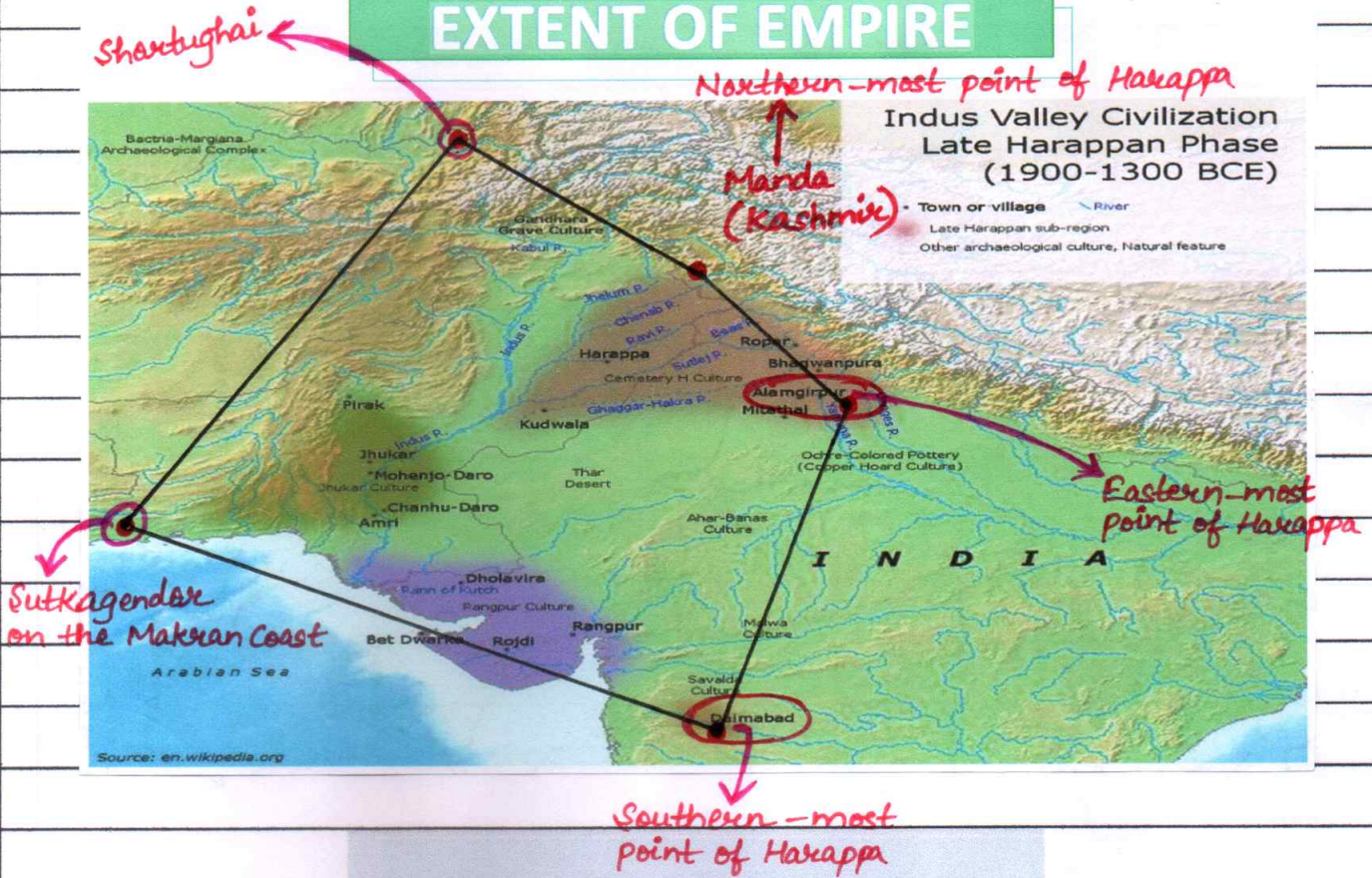
respectively. However, **John Marshall** and **Maximilian Wheeler** also played a crucial role in the discovery and excavation of the Harappan sites.

- (2) Since, **Harappa** was the first site excavated by the scholars, It has been named as the "**Harappa Civilisation**". In other words, Harappa was a type-site.
- (3) **John Marshall** had used the name "**Indus Valley Civilisation**" due to the location of the Harappan sites mainly on the river bank **Indus**. But after India's Independence, various other sites of Harappa were excavated outside the river Indus mainly in the **Ghaggar-Hakra river valley**. Therefore, the current Government of India named it the **Sindhu-Saraswati Civilisation**.
- (4) According to the **Diffusionist theory**, the Harappans were the migrants who came from the pockets of West Asia and settle down in the Indian Subcontinent. According to them, on the basis of **Racial Study**, the Harappans were divided into 4 races:
  - (i) **Mediterranean race**
  - (ii) **Mongoloids race**
  - (iii) **Proto-Australoids race**
  - (iv) **Alpines race**

and majority of the Harappan belongs to the **Mediterranean race**. However, the **Diffusionist theory** has been rejected by the Modern Historians regarding the origin of Harappa, it was a long-drawn process through which the Harappan Civilisation emerged between 2600 BCE and 1900 BCE.

- (5) The **Neolithic - Chalcolithic Cultures** emerged in the Indian Subcontinent from c. 5000 BCE onwards in the form of the sites like Mehargarh, SaraiKhola, Rahman-dheki etc. formed the basis for the emergence of **pre-harappan** and **early-harappan** in the Indian Subcontinent.
  - (6) The pre-harappan and early-harappan cultures shared various cultural practices with continuity and change. Therefore, in the **mature-harappan phase** many cultural practices of the early-harappans continued with some modifications.
  - (7) Hence, under the above background, the Harappan Civilisation emerged due to the strong-will and hard-labour of the Harappans from **2600 BCE** onwards.
  - (8) The equation i.e.  $R_1 + R_2 + R_3 = \text{Harappan Civilisation}$  well establishes the process of the emergence of Harappan civilisation where  $R_1$  stands for the perfect balance between the Harappan cities and the villages in the surrounding whereas  $R_2$  stands for a balance between the city to city interaction within the Harappan territories and  $R_3$  stands for a perfect relationship between the cities of Harappa with the other cities of contemporary civilisations such as **Mesopotamia (Iraq)**, **Sumeria (Gulf Nations)**, and **Egyptian and Mycenaean (Greek) civilisations**.
- ✳ It is important to note here, as long as the Harappans were able to maintain a perfect balance between  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , they prospered in the Indian Subcontinent, but when they compromised it, the decline of the Harappans was set-in.

# EXTENT OF EMPIRE



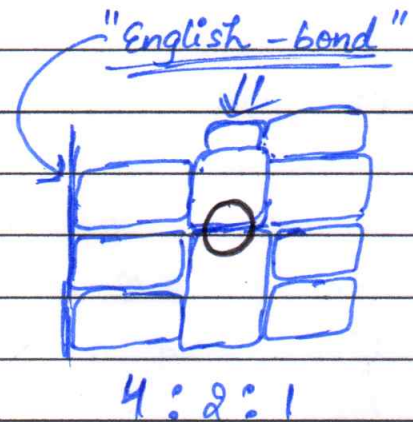
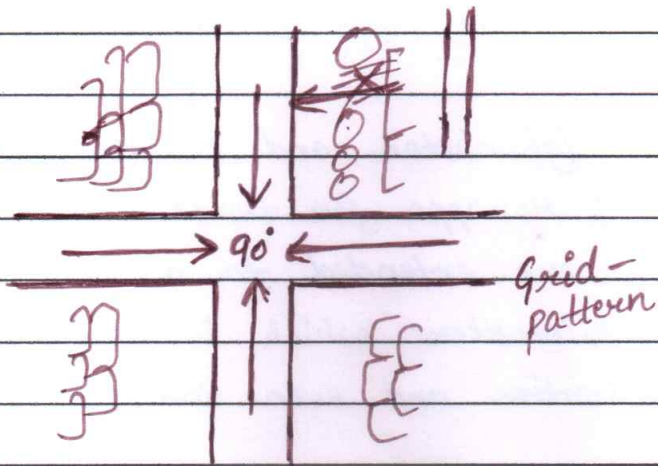


Image → Great Bath

## The Extent of Empire & Urbanisation

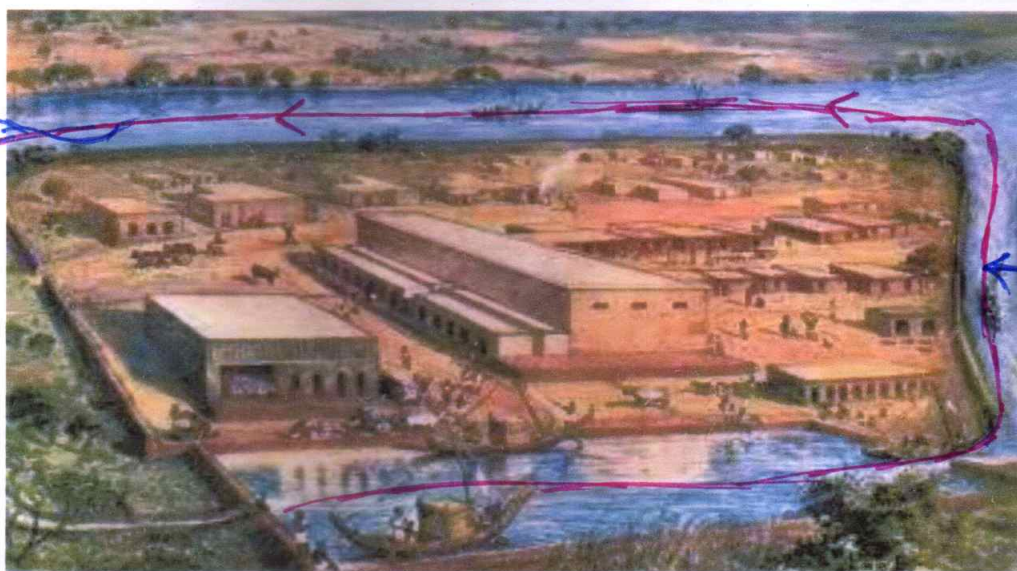
According to some scholars, the Harappans may have been an Empire because of the following reasons:—

- (1) It was an extensive civilisation extended from Sutkagendur in the west on the Makran Coast to Alamgirpur near Meerut of the UP as the eastern point of the Harappans. Similarly, Manda in Kashmir and Daimabad in Maharashtra.

are the Northern and Southern-most point of the Harappans.

- (2) **Shortughai** on the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan acted as the overland post of Harappa for trade and commerce. Hence, Harappans were extended to a vast area of 2.18 million square kilometers which is much bigger than the Egyptian Civilisation and even today's Pakistan.
- (3) The level of Uniformity found in the bricks, seals, ceilings, weights and measures across the Harappan cities indicate a centralised control may have been exercised by some authority either it could be Priest or the king.
- (4) However, some Historians are of the opinion that Harappans may have been controlled by some Mercantile class because of their engagement in the trade and commercial activities. For e.g. :- the **Lothal Dockyard**.

### LOTHAL DOCKYARD





Magan → Makran

Melukha → Harappans

- (5) The most important contribution of Harappa to the modern civilisation happens to be their urban characteristics such as :—
  - (a) Their town planning used to consist of the main features like :—
    - (i) Fortification
    - (ii) laying down the town planning into forms :—
      - (a) Citadel and ; (b) lower towns.
  - However, there are 2 exceptions :—
    - \* Chanhudaro lacks Citadel.
    - \* Dholavira has middle town in between.
  - (iii) Well-planned states designed on the grid-pattern where normally the roads are states used to intersect with each other at 90°.
  - (iv) The emphasis on cleanliness and hygiene by the Harappans were pre-excellence on the parameters of even the modern days.
  - (v) The construction of houses and buildings was

designed upon the "English-bond" style under which the bricks were placed or laid down in a typical arrangement i.e. vertical alongwith horizontal bricks.

→(b) The urban pattern of Harappa was supported by their trade and commerce and the agricultural practices performed by the nearby villages. Even some harappan cities used to perform the practice of agriculture. For e.g.:— Kalibangan in Rajasthan has shown the evidence of the ploughed field. Similarly, Lothal has shown the evidence of the Bazaar Street of the Harappa. Lothal and Mohenjodaro have been called as the "Mound of the Dead" because of discovering the skeletons of the Harappans from these sites.

→(c) Because of their long-distance trade, the Harappan towns were able to prosper during 2600 BCE to 1900 BCE. For e.g.:— The inscription of the King Sargon of Akkad dated 2350 BCE mentions the ships of Dilmun, Magan, and Meluhha used to dock on the ports of Ure, Kish, Nippur, Susa of the Mesopotamian Civilization.

## Practice Question

Ques The ancient civilisation in Indian Sub-continent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece that its culture and traditions have been preserved without a breakdown to the present day. Comment. (200 Words) (2015)



## Class Quiz

Q(1) The Great Bath, found in the excavations of the Harappan city of Mohenjodaro, was likely used for :-

- a) Religious rituals
- b) Daily bathing
- c) Agricultural irrigation
- d) Cooking purposes

Q(2) Match list-I with list-II and select the correct answer from the code given below :-

List-I (Harappan Site)

List-II (Location)

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| A. Mohenjodaro | 1. Rajasthan         |
| B. Daimabad    | 2. Haryana           |
| C. Kalibangan  | 3. Jammu and Kashmir |
| D. Rakhigarhi  | 4. Maharashtra       |

Code :-

- |  | A | B | C | D |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| a)                                     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| b)                                     | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c) | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| d)                                     | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Q(3) Ploughed field was discovered at which site ?

- a) Mohenjodaro
- b) Kalibangan
- c) Harappa
- d) Lothal

Q(4) What evidence suggests that Harappan society was well-organized?

- a) Standardized weights and measures
- b) Hierarchical social structure
- c) Strict caste system
- d) Heavy taxation

Q(5) Which of the following was NOT a feature of Harappan cities?

- a) Well-planned streets
- b) Advanced drainage system
- c) Fortified walls
- d) Pyramids

Q(6) What was the primary material used for the construction of houses in Harappan cities?

- a) Wood
- b) Stone
- c) Mud bricks
- d) Concrete