

# Video Notes: The Dalits

- Take notes on important or interesting details from the video.
- What did you find interesting or important?
- Do you have any questions about what you saw?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdGY9UX1Gr8>

# 3.1 The Indo-Europeans

Chapter 3 Section 1

Class Notes and Homework Review of  
Questions 3-7.

# Who are the Dalits?

- India's Untouchables - People with NO CASTE.
- Considered unclean and literally “untouchable” by the rest of Indian society “polluted.”
  - Did all the dirty work – butchers, sewer & waste workers
- If even the shadow of an untouchable fell upon you, you would have to be ritually purified.
- The caste system and Untouchables are no longer legal class distinctions in India today. BUT socially this system still has a huge impact on daily life in India. Often untouchables convert to other religions to escape the stigma of “untouchability.”
  - Ex: Buddhism – has no caste system.



# Steppes

- Dry grasslands that stretch across central **Asia**.



# Where did the Dalit class come from?

- The Aryans – an Indo-European people who crossed the Hindu-Kush Mts into the Indus Valley.
- Greatly influenced Indian Culture – established the caste system.
- The Dalits are so low they are beneath the caste system.

# The Caste (system)

- A system of **social classes that has its roots in Hinduism.**
  - VERY STRICT (rigid).
- You were **born into** a specific Caste & you **could not change caste.**
- Today the untouchables are called Dalits



# 4 Main Castes

1. \*Brahmins: priest caste.
  2. \*Kshatrias: rulers & warriors.
  3. \*Vaishyas: landowners, merchants, traders.
  4. Shudras: laborers
- = twice born – groups could make it to Moksha – enlightenment. Could not achieve Hindu Heaven without first living at least once as a Shudra.
  - Why? Maybe you needed to understand what it's like at the bottom before being “promoted” to the top.



### 3. What were some of the technological achievements of the Hittites?

- a. **Advanced Chariots**
- b. **Iron (steel) weapons.**
  - The making of **steel** was a **highly guarded secret** that the Hittites maintained for 200 years!  
**Why keep it secret?**
- **Answer:** You have a monopoly – a **huge advantage** if you can make an advanced weapon and your enemies cannot.

## 4. What were some of the borrowings of the Hittites?

- a. Akkadian **Language**.
- b. Mesopotamian **Literature**.  
**ex:** Epic of Gilgamesh
- c. **art, politics, and law**.  
**ex:** Hammurabi's Code

## 5. Where do some of the historians think the Aryans lived before they arrived in India?

- northwest of India, between the Aral and Caspian Seas, on other side of the Hindu Kush mountains, and **on the Asian Steppe lands.**
- **Why? b/c the Aryans valued cows highly – they were probably nomadic herders.**
  - **Cows are considered “holy” in Hinduism (text picture).**

## 6. Important Contributions of the Aryans

a. **Religion – The caste system:** A rigid (permanent & strict) class system.

→ Kept conquered people in their place.

b. **Literature:** The *Vedas* and *Mahabharata*

c. **Social Role:** Everyone had clearly defined duties in life.

# 7. The Hittite Chariot

- an excellent fighting machine because it was light & fast, maneuverable, pulled by up to 4 horses and had room for a driver & archer.



# 11/4 Video Notes

**Hinduism**

**Buddhism**

# 11/4 Video Notes

## Hinduism

**Many Gods – polytheistic**

**Karma** – good & bad deeds determine next caste.

**Caste system** – strict social classes based on birth.

**Goal: Enlightenment / Moksha**

**Rivers** = symbols of never ending life (**reincarnation**)

The Ganges river = holy.

## Buddhism

**No Gods\*** – a way of life

\* today Mahayana Buddhists see **Buddha** as a god.

**Founder: Siddhartha Gautama**

**Goal: Enlightenment / Nirvana**

**Karma** – good & bad deeds determine next life.

**No Caste** – can make it to enlightenment in 1 lifetime

**Reincarnation** – cycle of birth – life – death – rebirth broken with enlightenment

# 11/5 Class Notes on 3.1

## The Hittites

- Indo-European peoples who migrated to Anatolia and established an Empire.



- Famous for their Warrior Chariots. The nobility hunted Lions as a test of Manhood.
- Capital City – Hattusha – Rivals of Egypt



The  
Lion  
Gate





# Anatolia

- A huge Peninsula just below the black sea, Home of the Hittite Empire, Modern Turkey.



# Mahabharata

- Great **Epic & mythical story** about Indian kings and the struggle to control India.



# Krishna

- **Hero of the Mahabharata**, Krishna was a god in human form which interacted with humans in different ways.
- Hinduism believes in 1000s of gods, all of whom interact with humans in various ways.



# Perusha

- The first human being from which the 4 castes were descended from.
- East caste represents a different body part.
  - Head = Brahmin
  - Arms = Kshatriyas
  - Legs = Vaishyas
  - Feet = Shudras



# Sanskrit

- An **Indian language** which has Indo-European roots (the Aryans) and has influenced many modern languages like English and Spanish.

नम	बालः	बाला	स	सा	तौ	ते	
bow (nāmaṣṭe)	boy	girl	he	she	they (m)	they(f) many	
पठ	पठति	लिख	पच	खाद	चल	हस	धाव
read	reads	write	cook	eat	walk	laugh	run
खेल	वद	शाखा	पत	अम्बा	जनक		
play	speak	branch	fall	mother	father		
पुत्र	एव	च	न	कुत्र	अत्र	तत्र	
son	also	and	no	where ?	here	there	
अज	गज	अश्व	सिंह	ति	तः	न्ति	
goat	elephant	horse	lion	does-singular	does-(two)	does-many	

# Vedas

- Sacred book of the Aryans and early Hinduism.
- Provides a picture of Aryan life.



# Migration

- Movement of a people from one region to another (generally permanent).

