

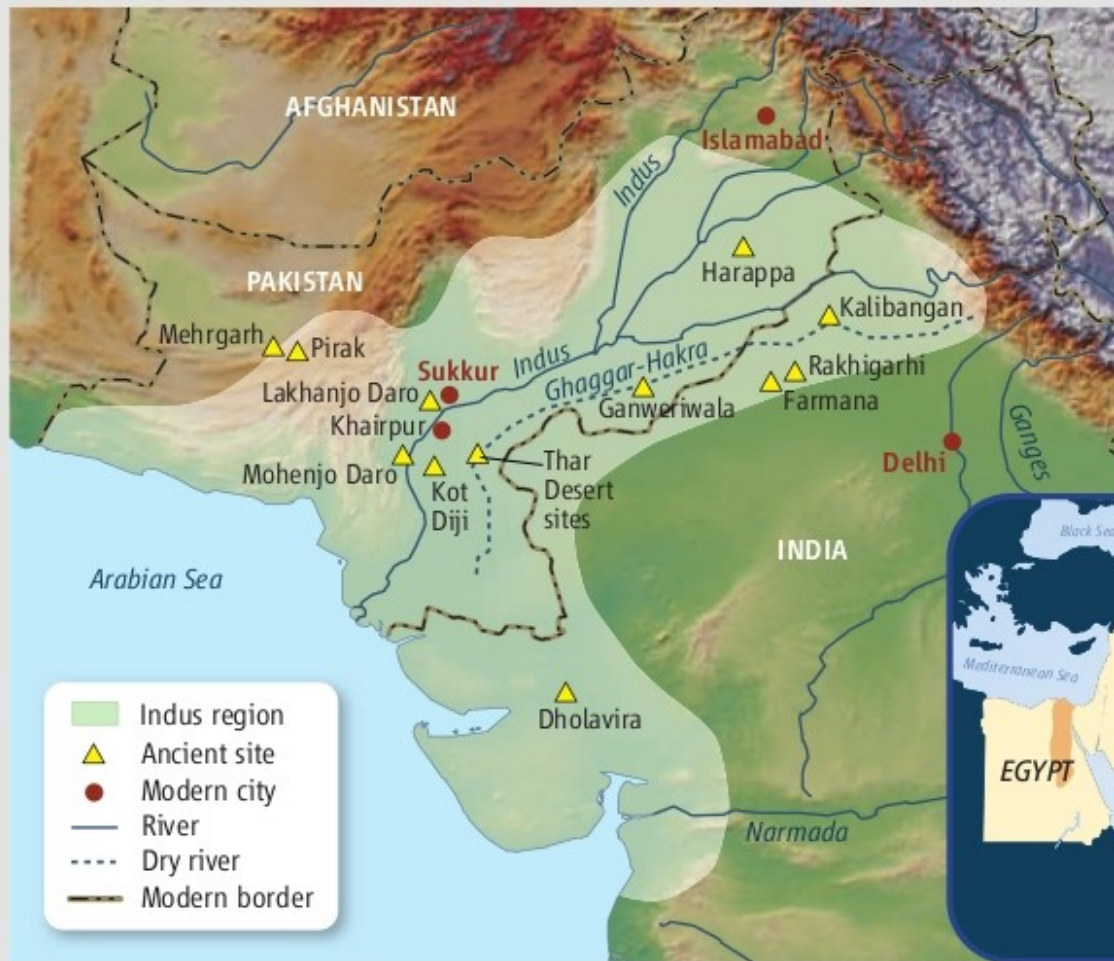


Indus Valley / Harappan Civilization an Introduction

Contents

- The Rise and Fall of Indus Valley / Harappan Civilization
- Salient Features of IVC
- Indus Script
- Possible Languages linked to the Indus Script
- Current Research

Indus Valley(Harappan) Civilization

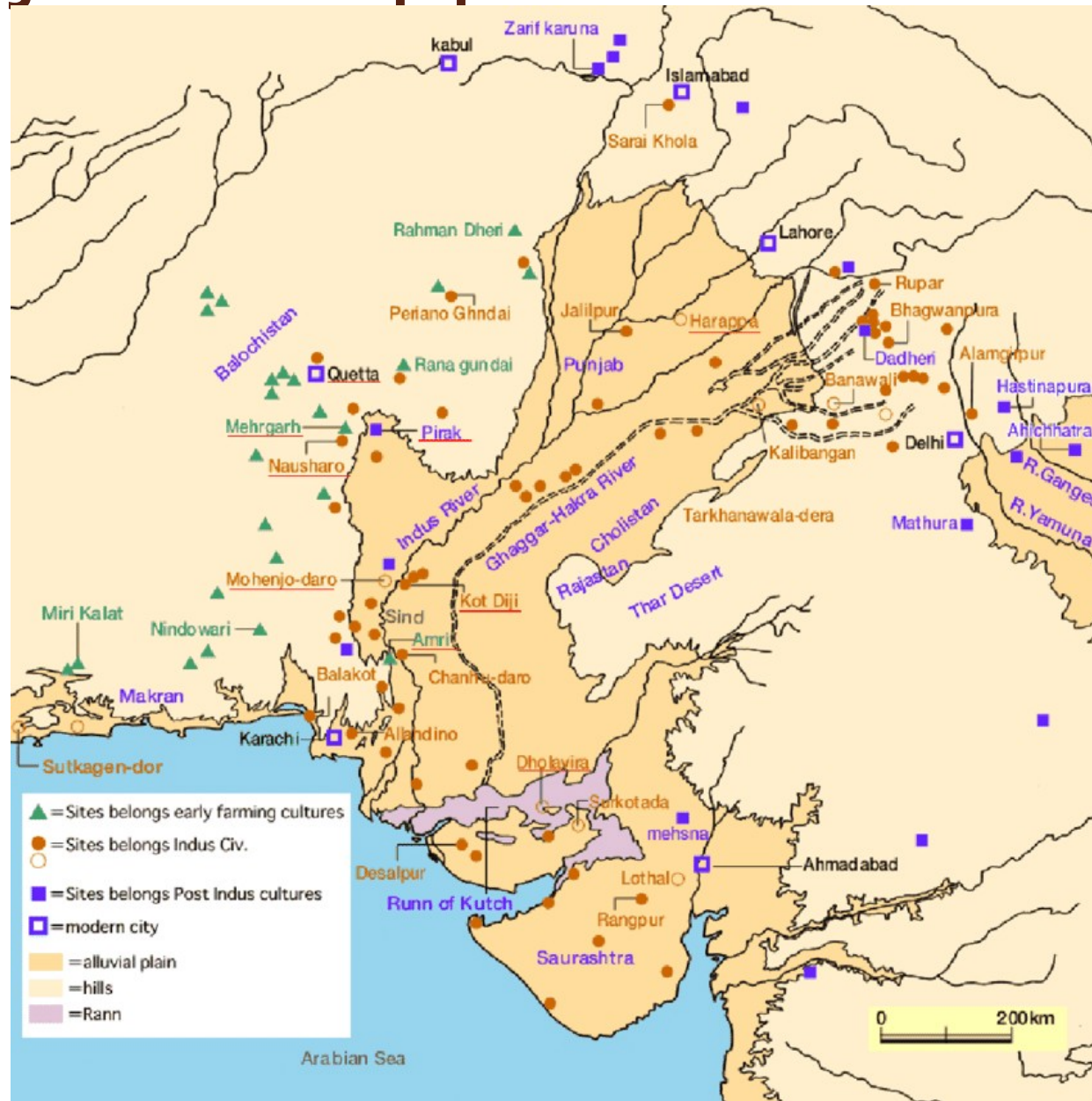


THE INDUS REALM

EAST OF EDEN. Sprawling between the Himalaya Mountains and the Arabian Sea, the Indus civilization covered a larger area than Egypt or Mesopotamia (*inset*) and boasted at least a half-dozen large cities and many smaller towns and villages. Trading posts stretched from northern Afghanistan to Oman, and goods traveled over both land and sea routes.



Major Harappan Sites



Indus Valley Civilization – Stages of Development

Stage	Description	Period
One	Beginnings of village farming communities and pastoral camps	7000-4300 BCE
Two	Developed village farming communities and pastoral societies	4300-3200 BCE
Three	Early Harappan	3200-2600 BCE
Four	Early Harappan - Mature Harappan transition	2600-2500 BCE
Five	Mature Harappan	2500-1900 BCE
Six	Post-urban Harappan	1900-1000 BCE

Indus Valley Civilization – Discovery

- George Masson's visit to Harappa in 1820s and publication of his accounts in 1842
- Alexander Burns visits Harappa ~1831
- Annexation of Punjab in 1848-49
- British rule of India and the formation of ASI
 - Alexander Cunningham as the first DG
- John Marshall heading ASI (1902?-1928)
- RD Banerji and D.Sahni heading efforts in Mohenjodaro and Harappa, respectively
- Announcement in 1924

Indus Valley Civilization – Discovery



R.D. Banerji

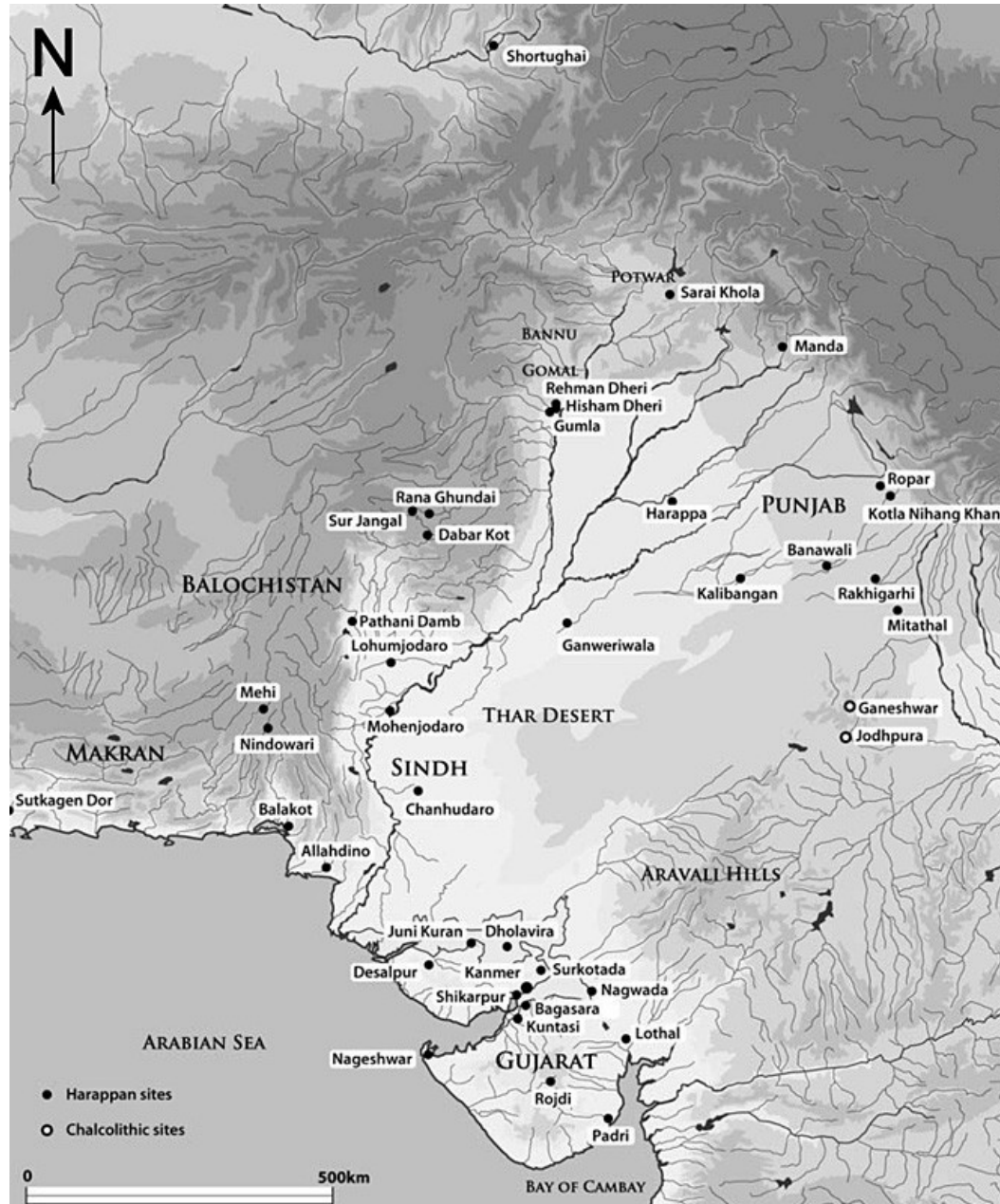


John Marshall



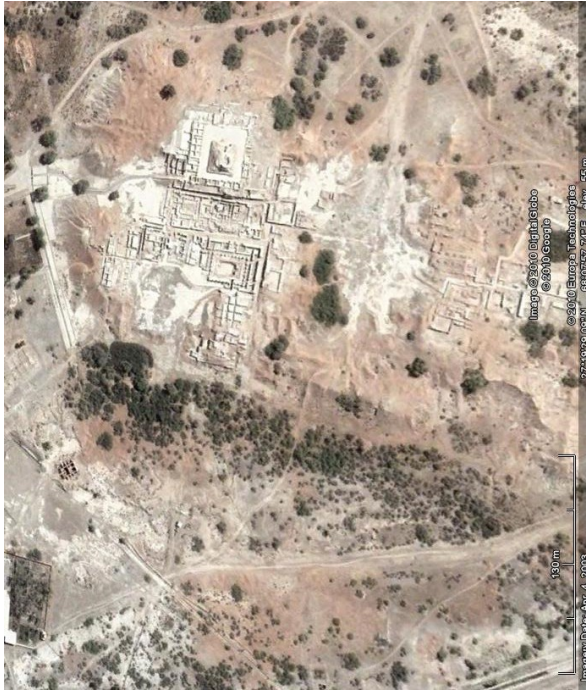
Daya Ram Shani

Urbanization



Major Urban Centres

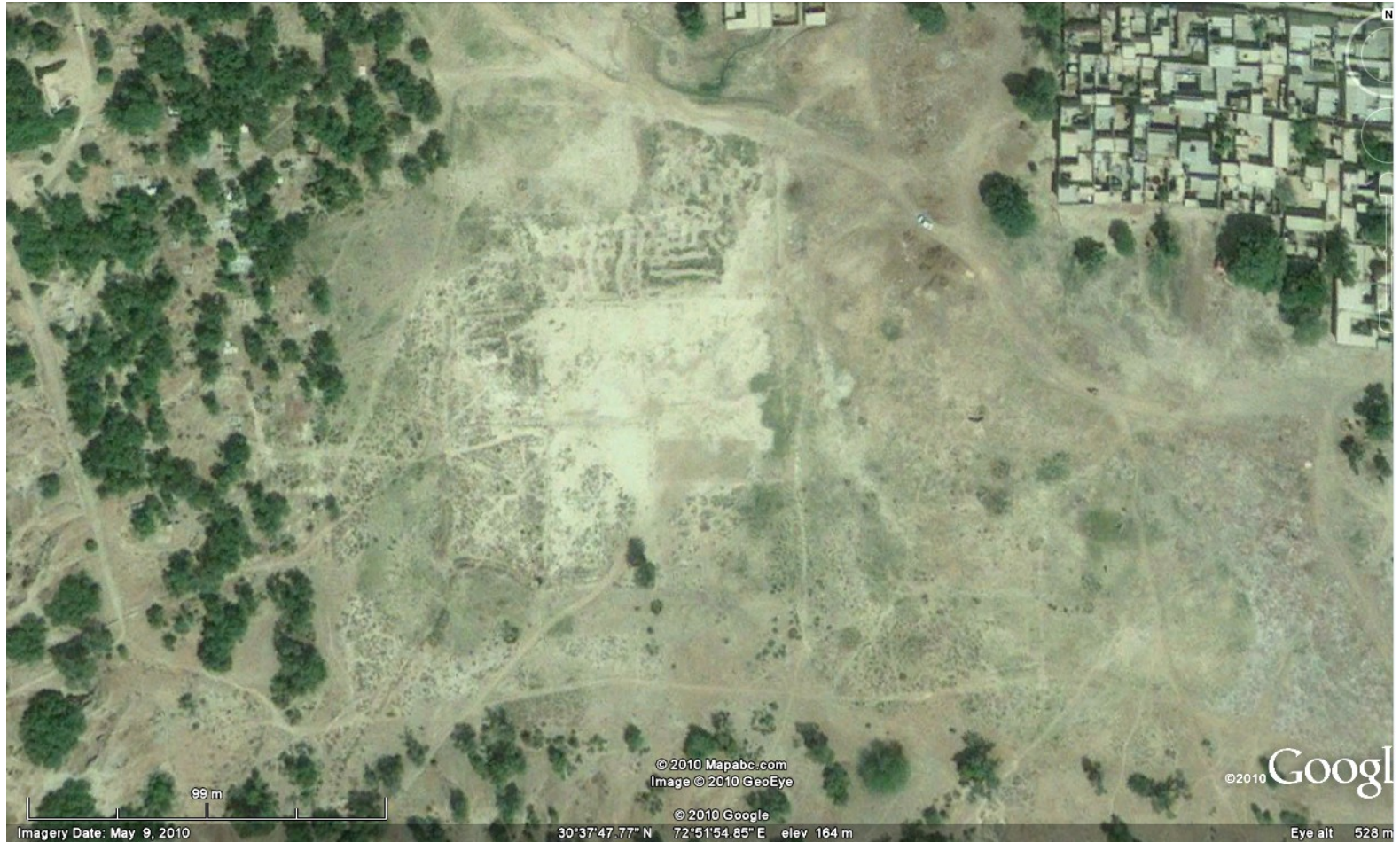
Mohenjo-daro



Area ca. 225 ha or 2.25 sq.km

Major Urban Centres

Harappa



Area ca. 100 ha or 1.0 sq.km

Major Urban Centres

Dholavira



Area ca. 100 ha or 1.0 sq.km

Urban Planning: Modern – Neyveli, Tamil Nadu



Urban Planning: Citadel Mound – Mohenjodaro



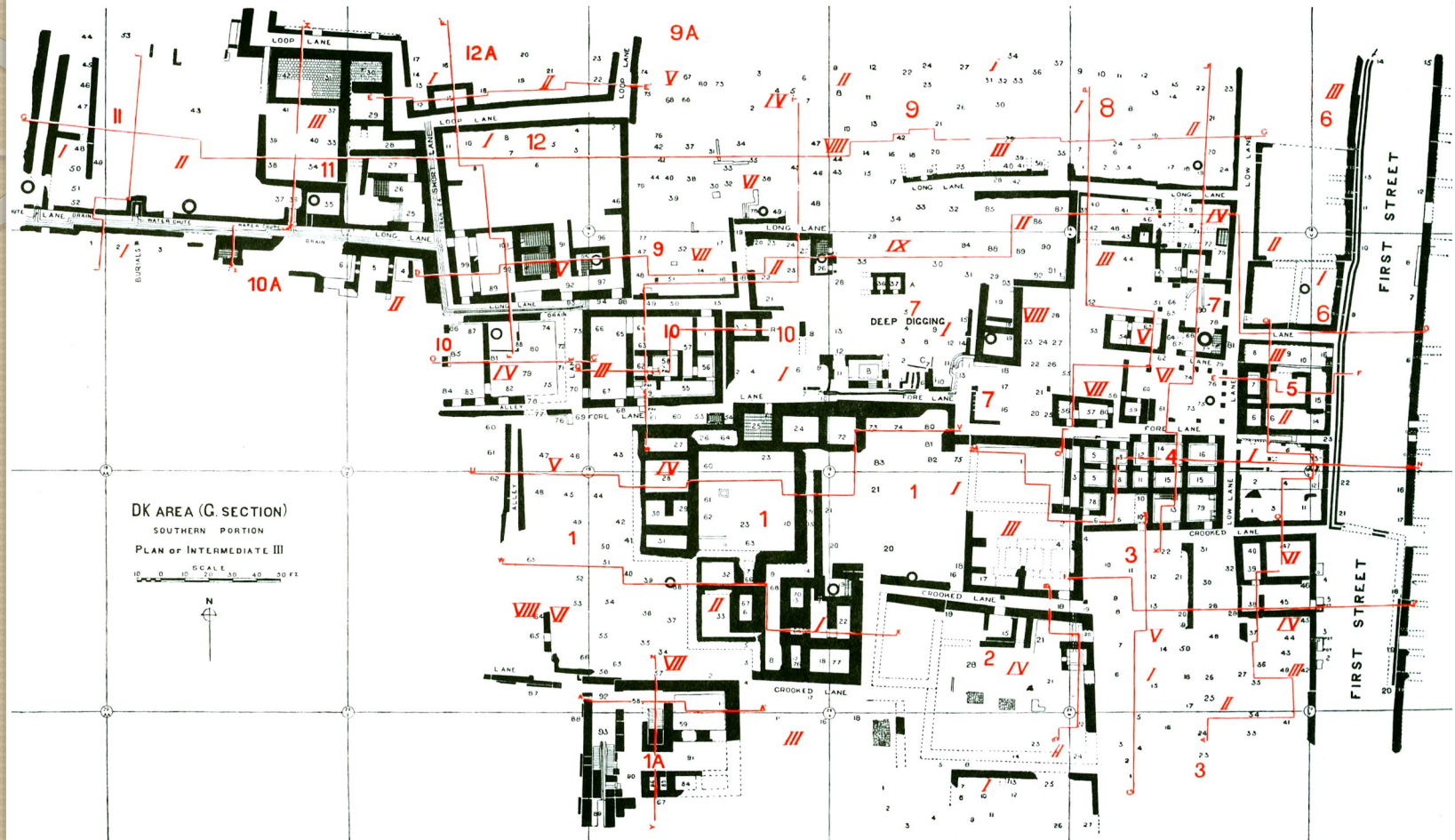
Aerial View

Urban Planning



- **Properly designed drainage system**
- **Separation of fresh water (e.g. well) from drainage water**
- **Lined, covered drainage Canals**
- **Bath/shower areas in many houses**

Planned Cities – Mohenjodaro Plan



Wells

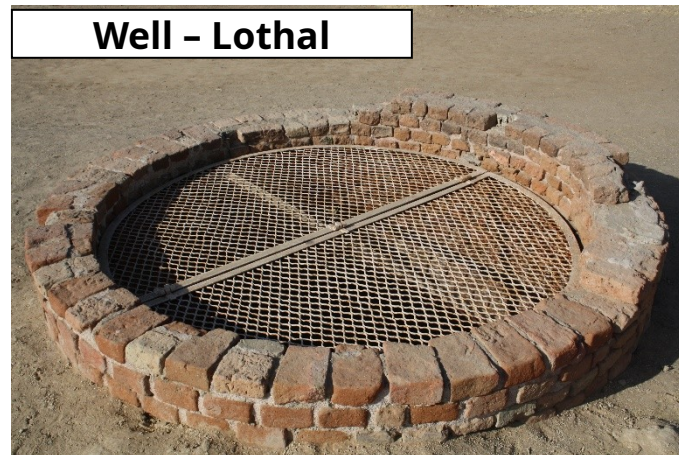


Well - Mohenjo daro



Well (oval)- Mohenjo daro

- Private and public wells
- Mostly circular, with some oval shaped
- Many lined with wedge shaped bricks



Well - Lothal

Drainage



Drainage - Lothal



Drainage - Harappa

- Harappans cities had covered drainage channels
- The drains were built in such a way that sewerage water was directed away from fresh water sources
- Many houses also had bathing areas and sump pits



Drainage - Lothal



Drainage - Dholavira



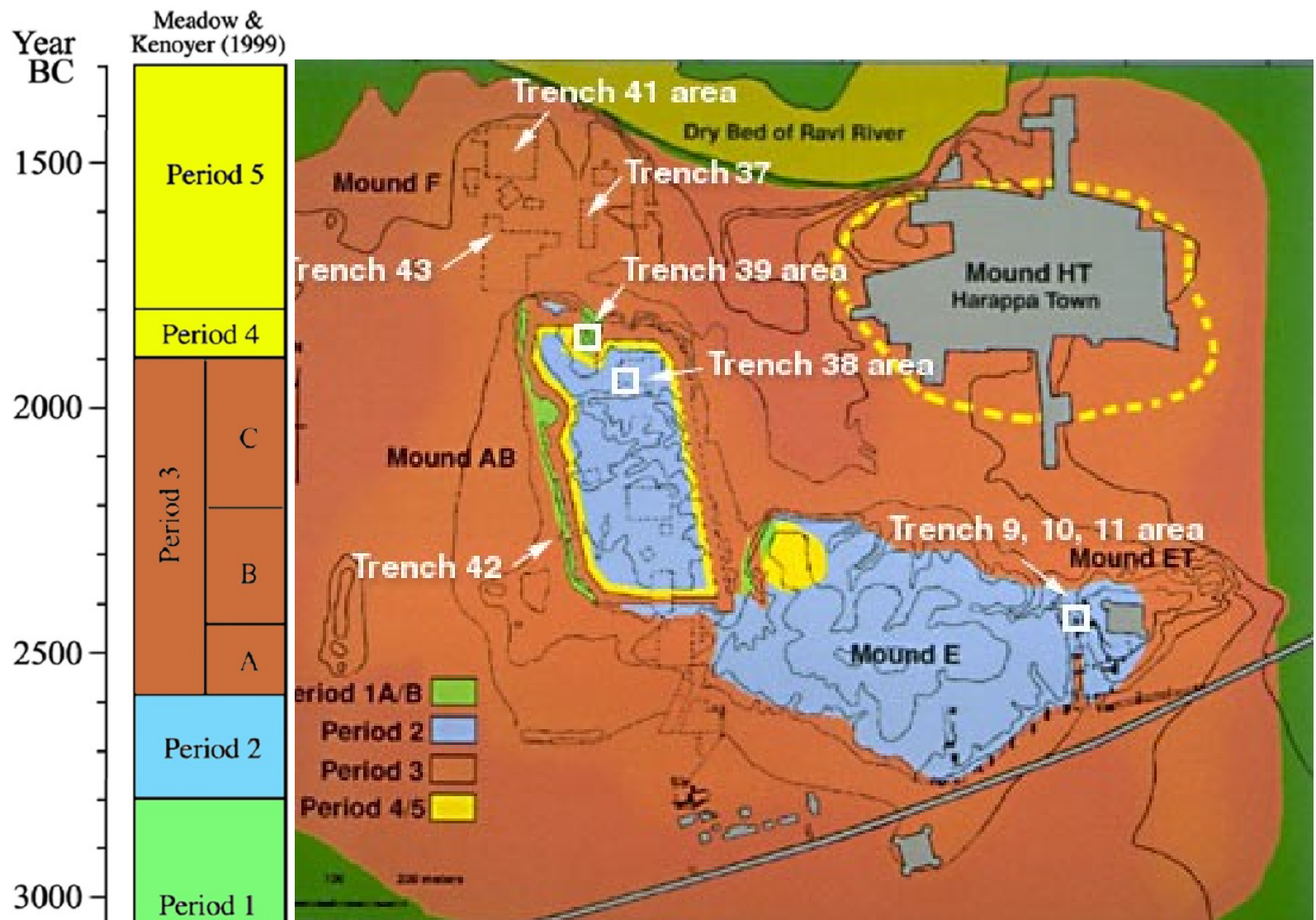
Covered drainage - Mohenjo daro

Architecture

- Based primarily on fired bricks, which were standardized across IVC during the Mature Harappan phase
- Use of unburnt bricks also found in earlier and later phases. Mud bricks, along with certain locally available stone (e.g., Dholavira) use in some cases, or for specific uses (fortification)



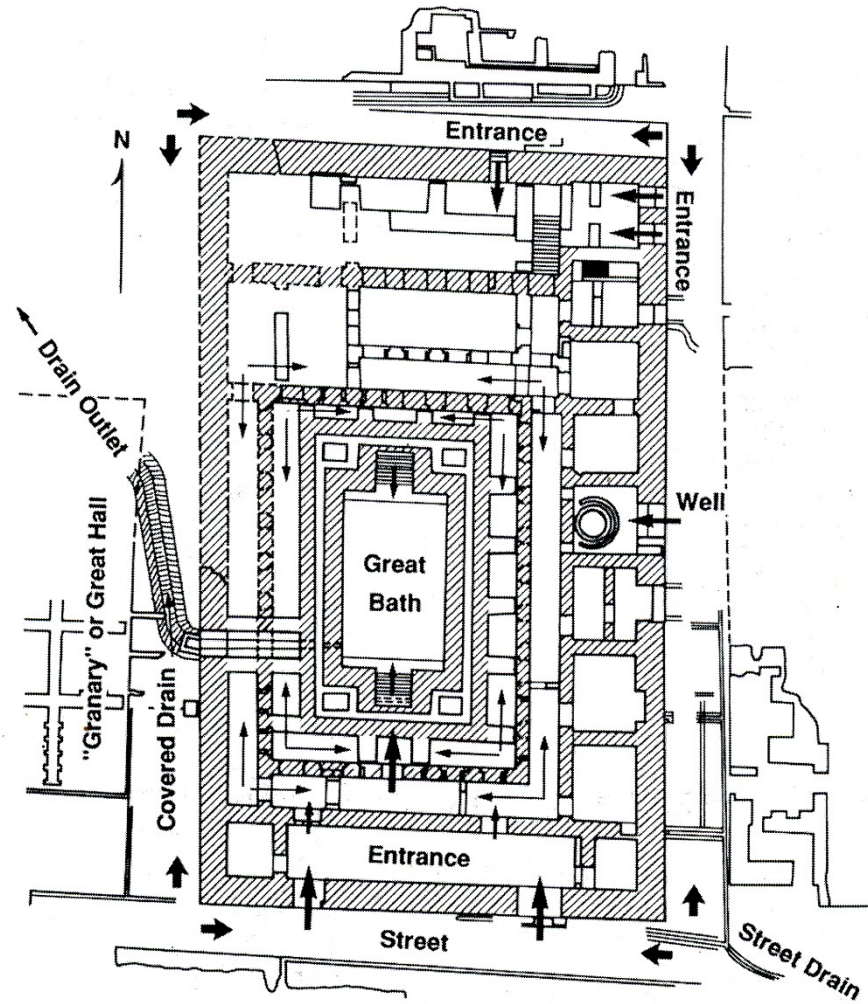
Architecture



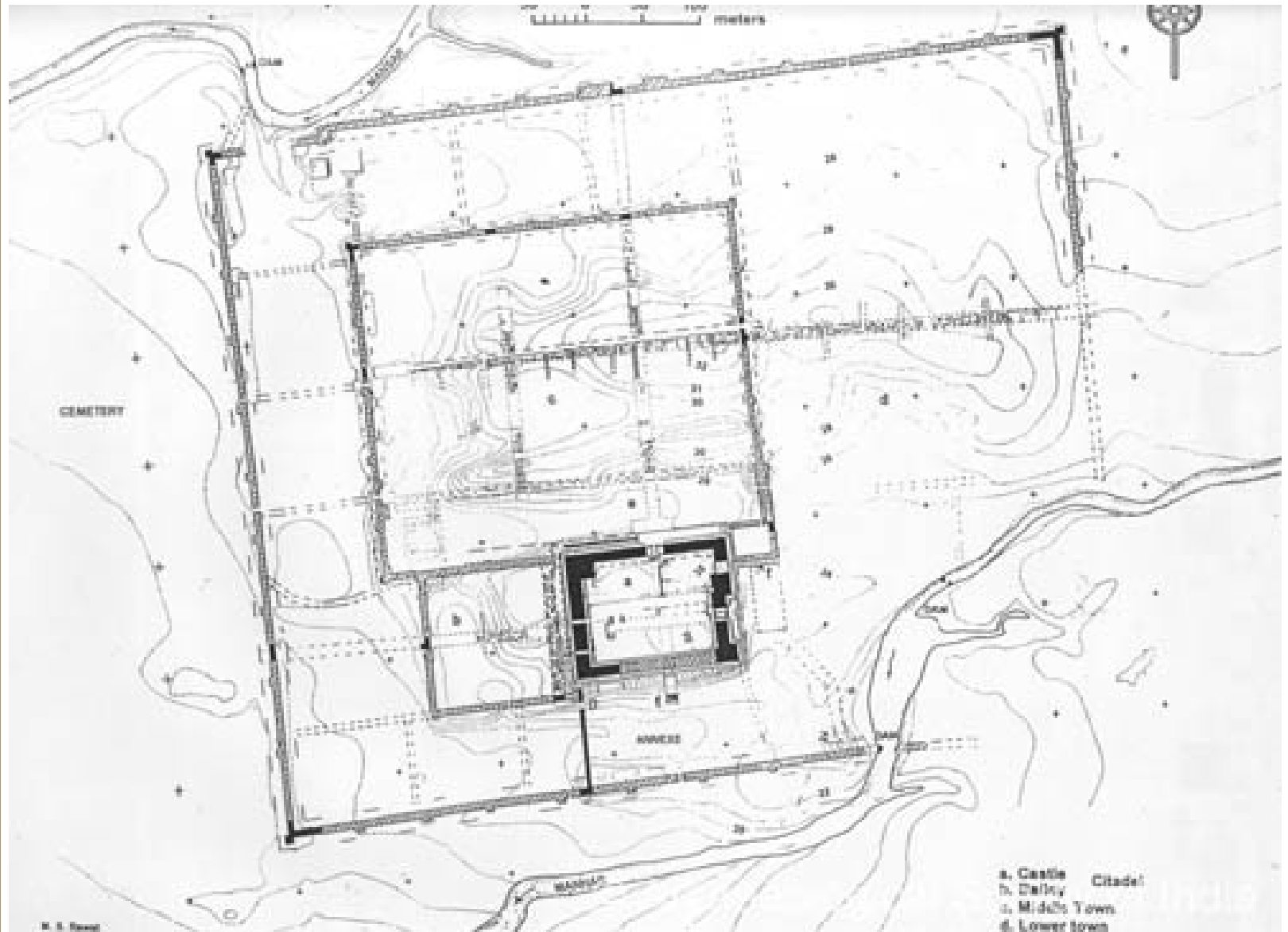
Architecture: Mohenjo daro's Great Bath



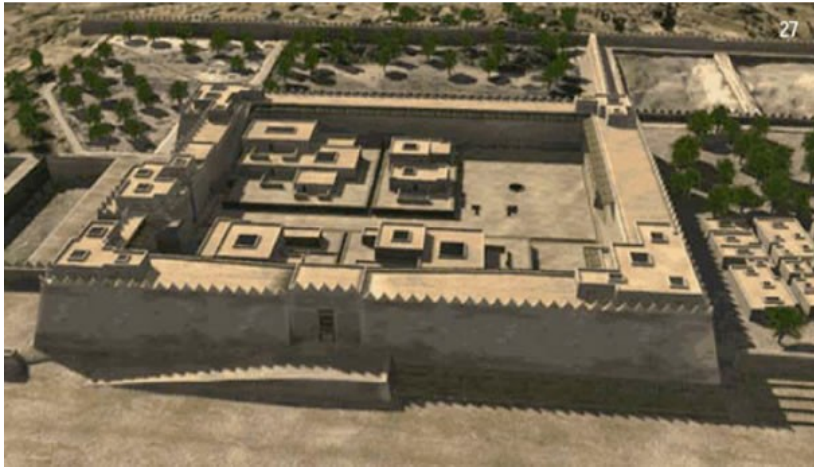
Architecture: Mohenjo daro's Great Bath



Dholavira – Schematic Plan



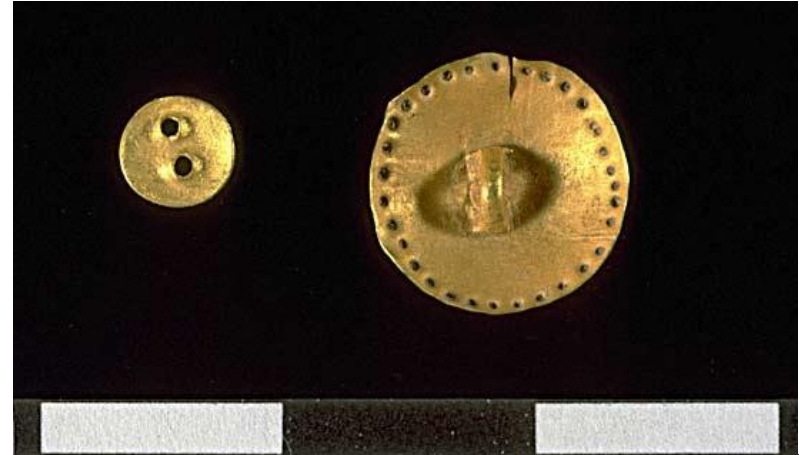
Architecture: Dholavira



Harappan Art – Kot Diji Phase



Terracotta Bangles



Gold sequins



Button Seal



Kiln

Images courtesy: Jonathan Mark Kenoyer

Harappan Art - Harappan Phase



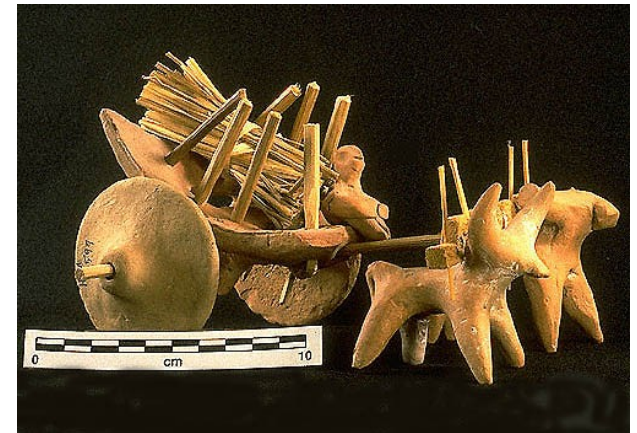
Terracotta Figurines



Zebu figurines



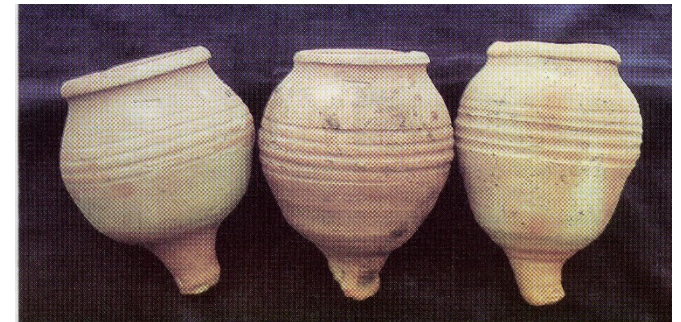
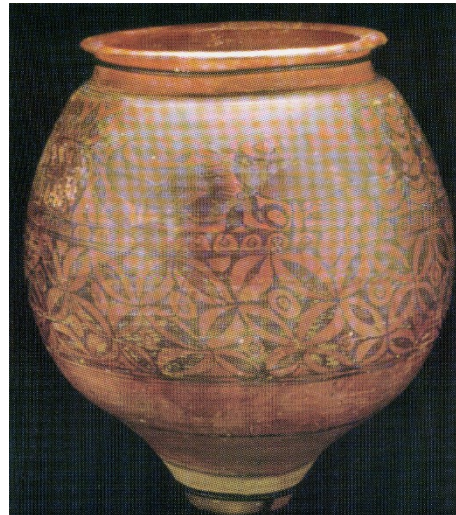
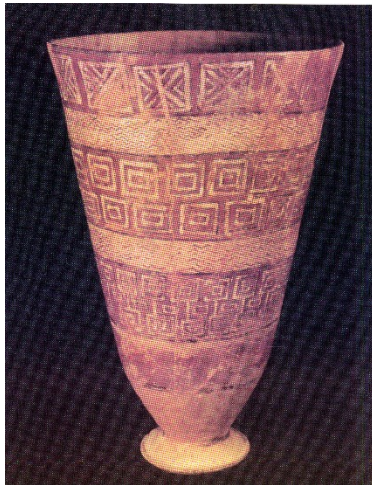
Water buffalo figurine



Ox/buffalo drawn cart

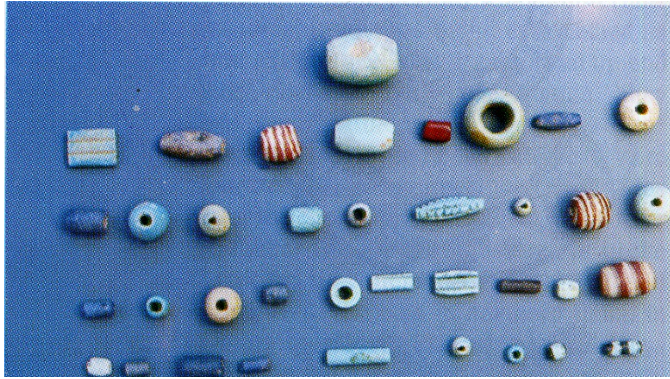
Images courtesy: Jonathan Mark Kenoyer

Harappan Art – Harappan Phase

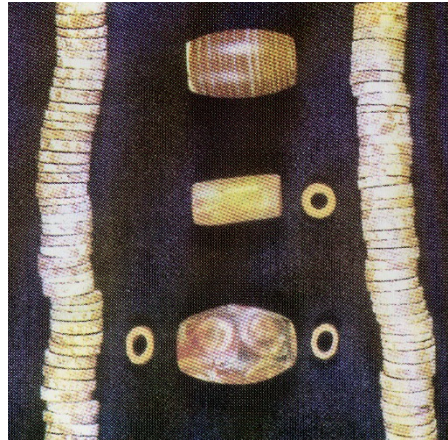
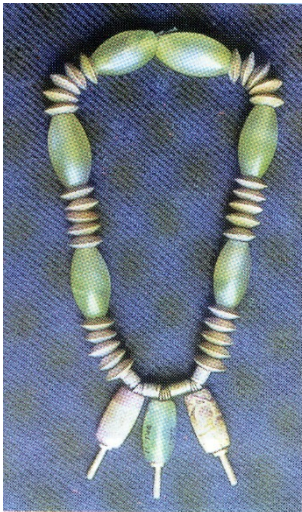


Images courtesy: Jonathan Mark Kenoyer

Harappan Art – Harappan Phase



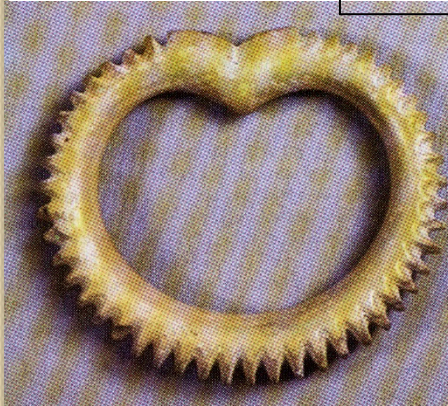
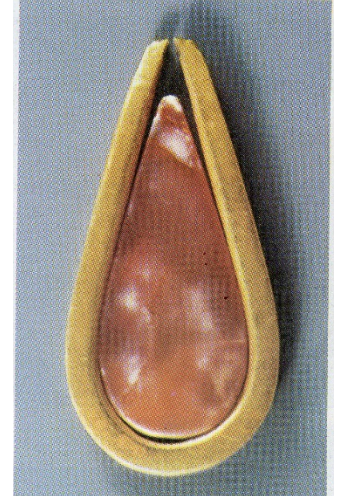
Harappans wore jewellery made from gold and semi-precious stones. Using pyrotechnical Expertise, Harappans were able to create semi-precious stones that they were able to export.



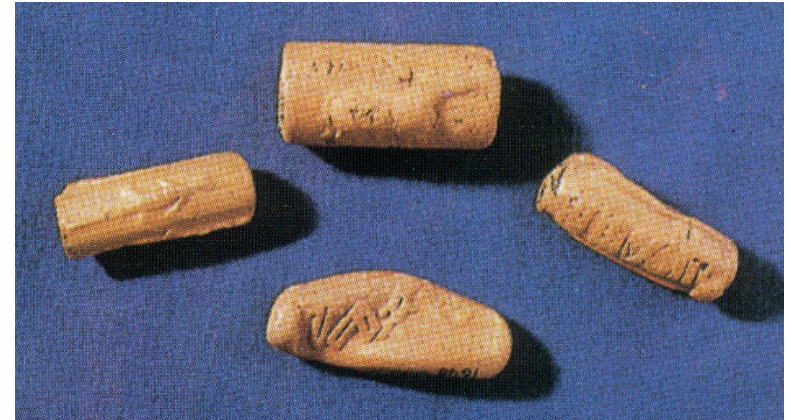
Harappan Art – Harappan Phase



Many crafts "such as shell working, ceramics, and agate and glazed steatite bead making" were used in the making of necklaces, bangles, and other ornaments from all phases of Harappan sites and some of these crafts are still practiced in the subcontinent today.



Harappan Art – Harappan Phase

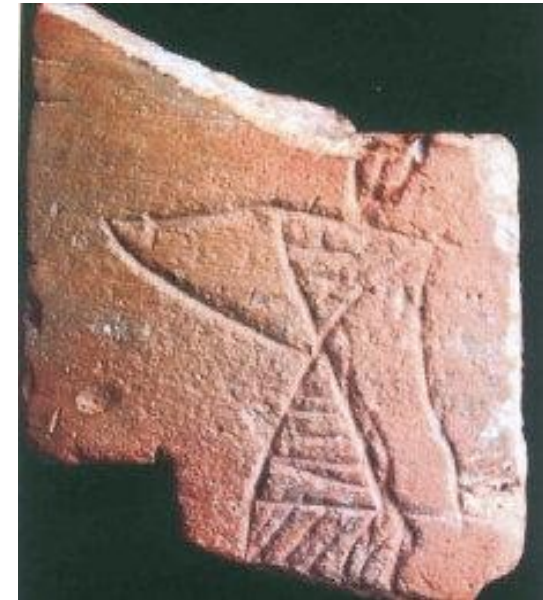


Images courtesy: Jonathan Mark Kenoyer

Harappan Art – Harappan Phase



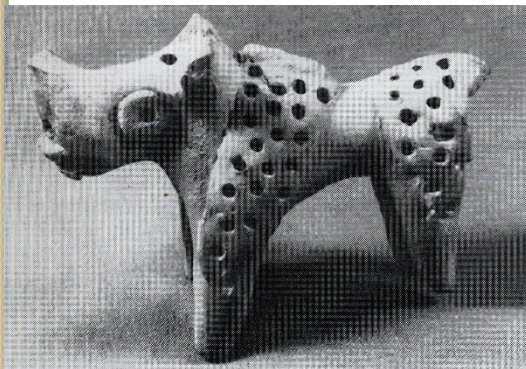
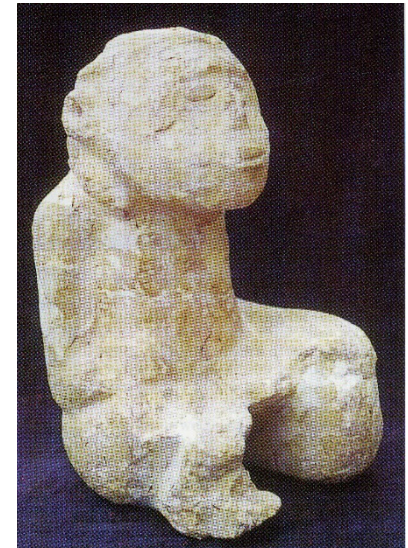
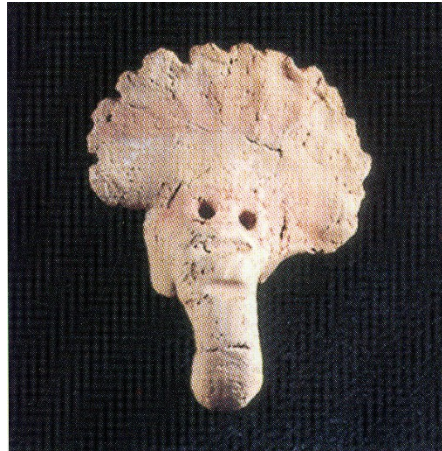
The famous “dancing girl” bronze figurine of Mohenjo daro cast using “lost wax” process



Woman striking a similar Pose on a potsherd engraving

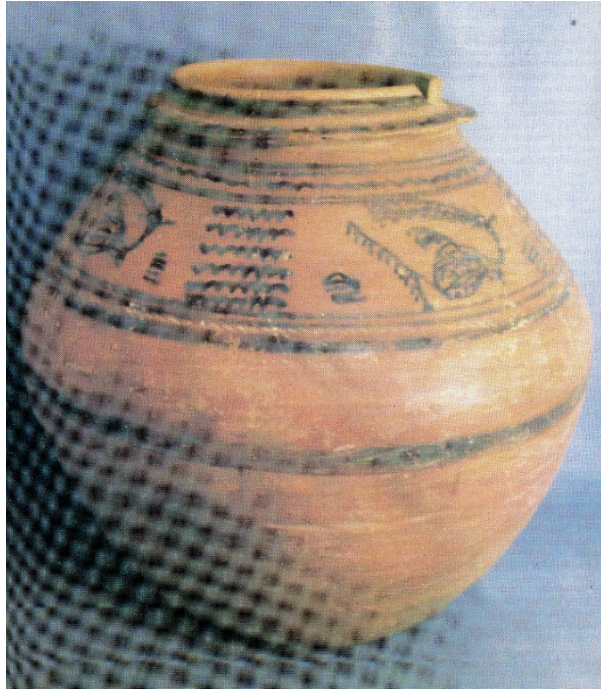
A number of gold, terra-cotta and stone figurines of girls in dancing poses reveal the presence of some dance form.

Harappan Art – Harappan Phase



Images courtesy: Jonathan Mark Kenoyer

Harappan Art – Late Harappan Phase

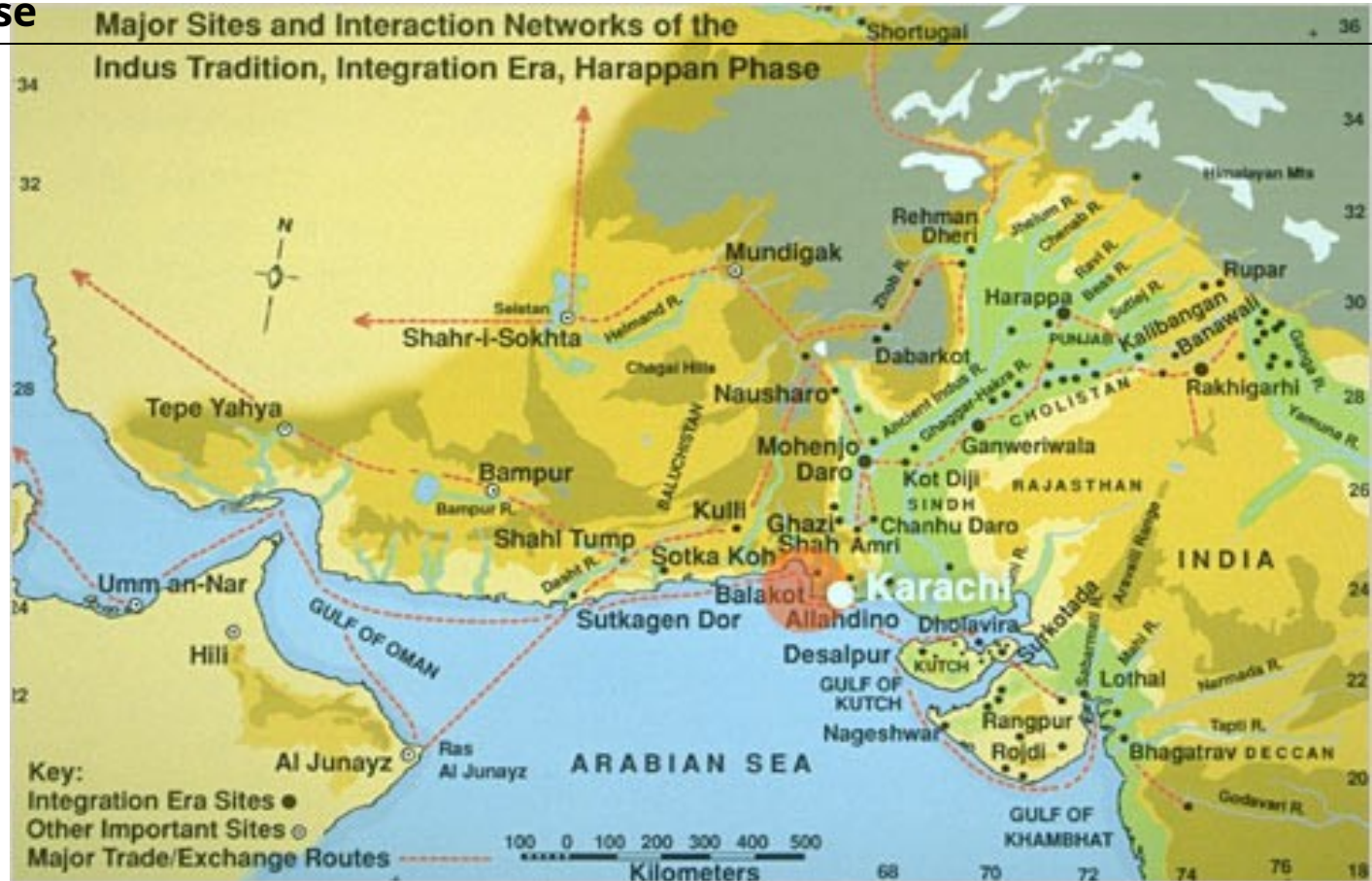


Even during the late Harappan period (e.g. Cemetery H culture) pottery with exquisite paintings were made. However, the Indus script is notably absent from the pottery of this period.

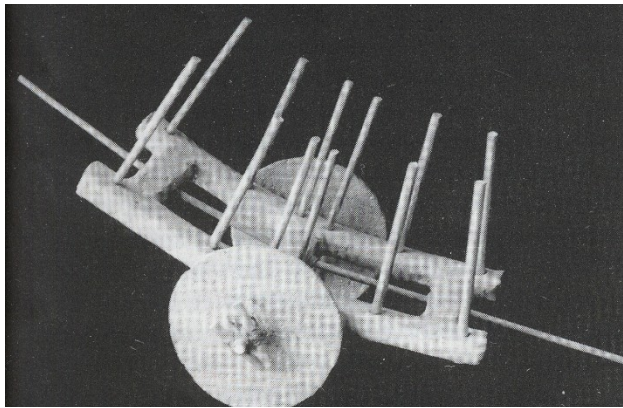
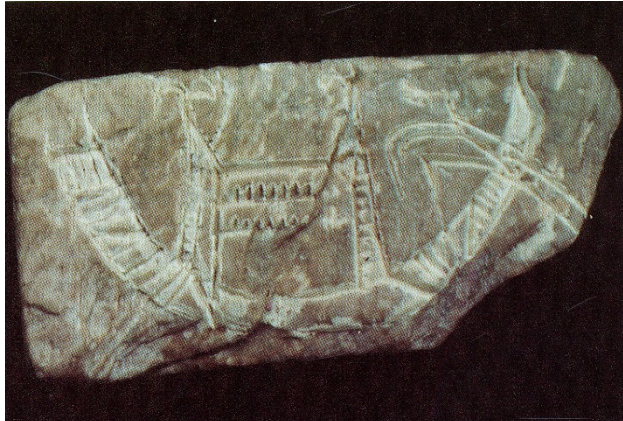
Economy and Commerce

Judging from the dispersal of Indus civilisation artifacts, the trade networks, economically, integrated a huge area, including portions of Afghanistan, the coastal regions of Persia, northern and western India, and Mesopotamia.

There was an extensive maritime trade network operating between the Harappan and Mesopotamian civilizations as early as the middle Harappan Phase



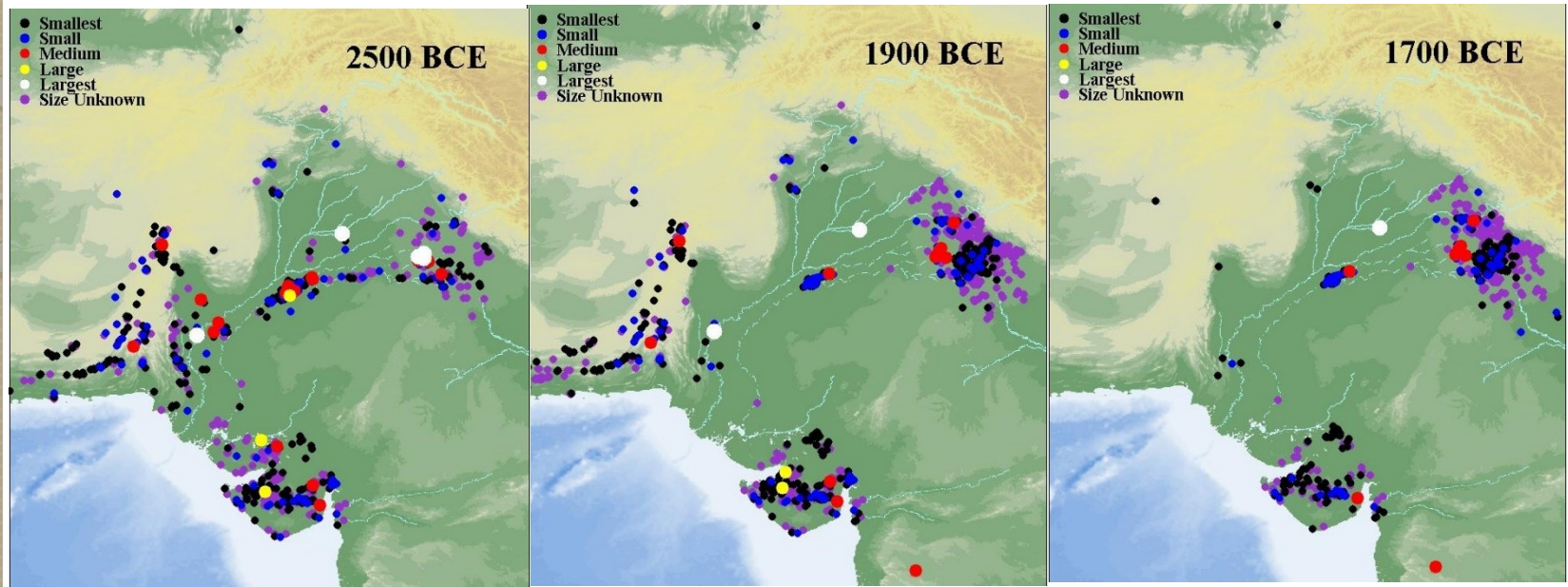
Economy and Commerce



Much commerce being handled by "middlemen merchants from Dilmun" (modern Bahrain and Failaka located in the Persian Gulf).

The land "Meluhha" found in Sumerian literature is widely believed to be the Harappan cities.

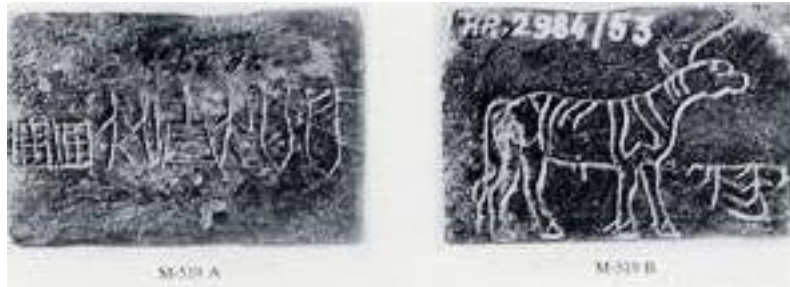
Decline and Fall



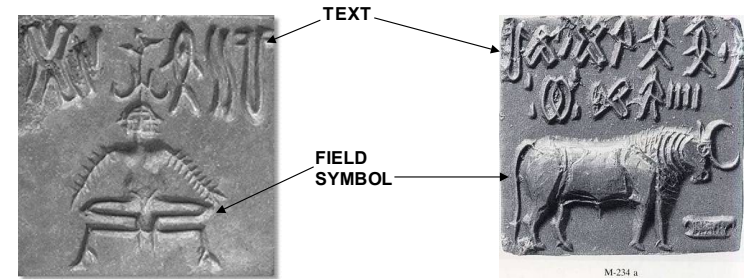
- A possible reason for the IVC's decline is connected with climate change that also affected the neighboring areas of the Middle East (e.g. 4.2 KYBP event).
- Another reason could be disappearance of substantial portions of the Ghaggar Hakra river system, possibly due to a tectonic event / or decreased rainfall
- Implosion of the Harappan society due to social upheaval
- Arrival of a different linguistic group with access to superior technology

Images courtesy: Kavita Gangal and Ronojoy Adhikari

Harappan Inscribed Objects



Incised Copper Tablet



Tablets



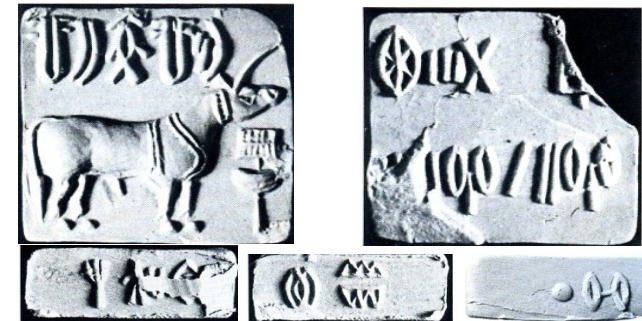
Seal and seal impression



Sealing



Other Copper Tools



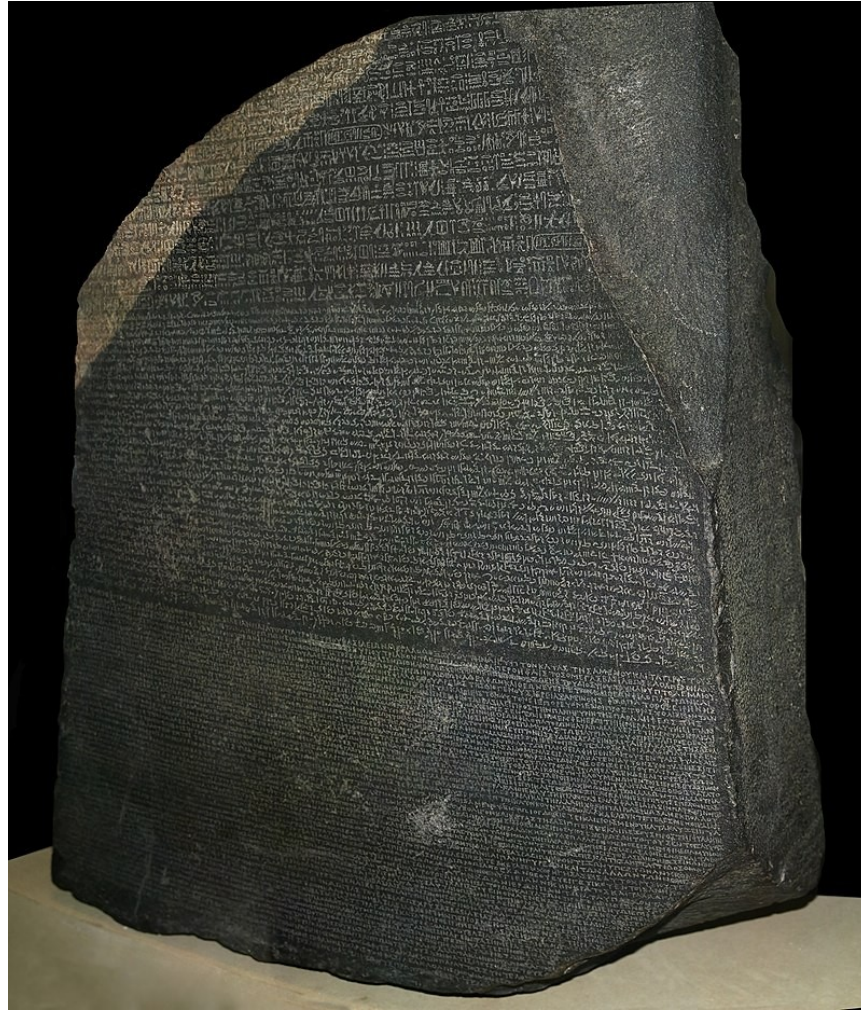
Nature of the Indus Script

- Generally written from right to left
- Some examples of left-to-right and boustrophedon writing is also seen
- Most found on steatite seals (of about 2.5 x 2.5 cm), terracotta tablets, and seal impressions
- Also found on copper objects and pottery

Why is the Indus Script not Deciphered Yet?

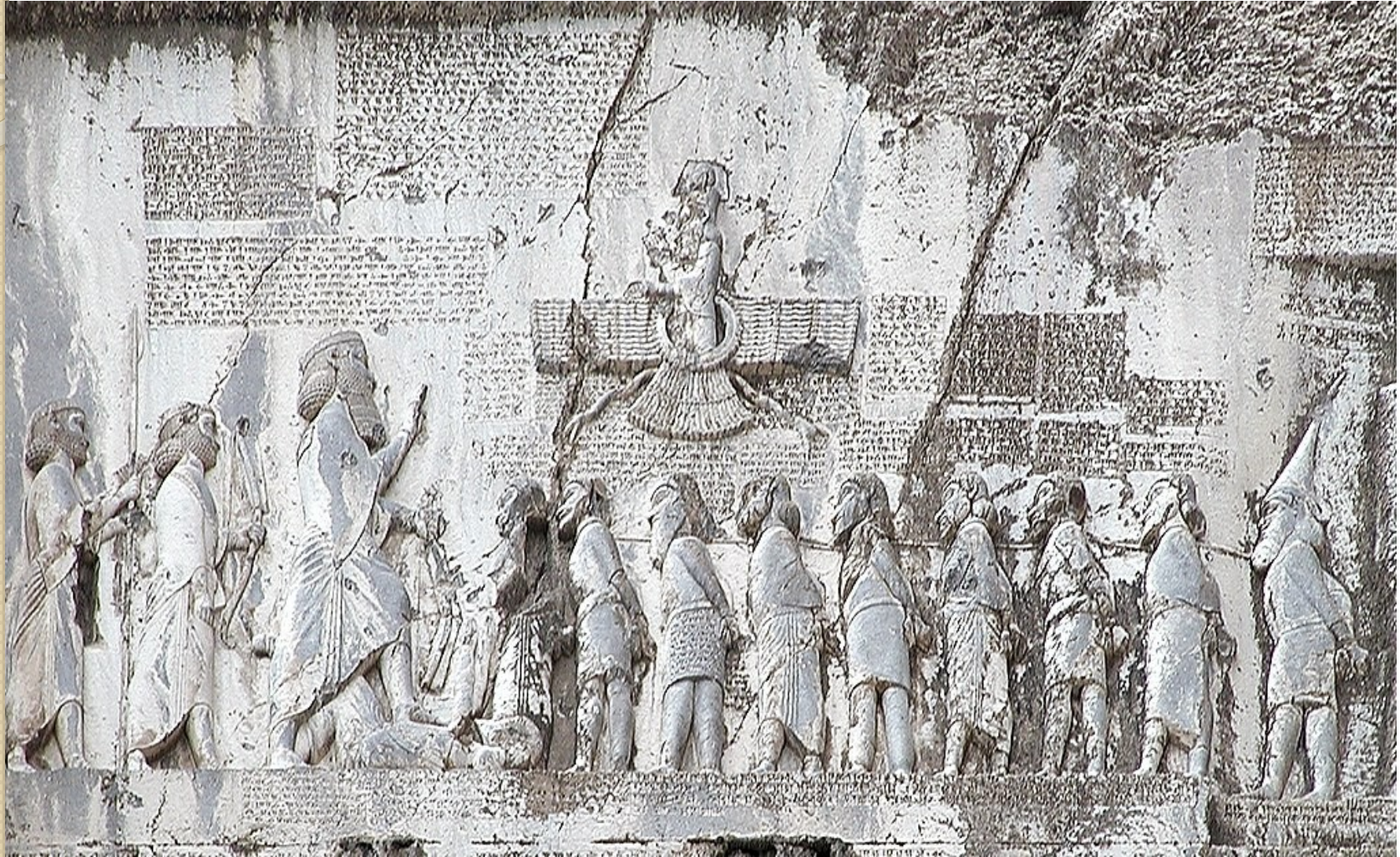
- Absence of bi-lingual texts
- Relatively short texts (average text is about 4.5 signs long)
- Number of texts available is relatively few (~4000)
- Underlying language not known (with certainty)

Bilingual Texts that Helped other Scripts – Rosetta Stone



Egyptian Hieroglyphic, Demotic, and Ancient Greek inscriptions found at Rosetta/Rashid, Egypt, in 1798

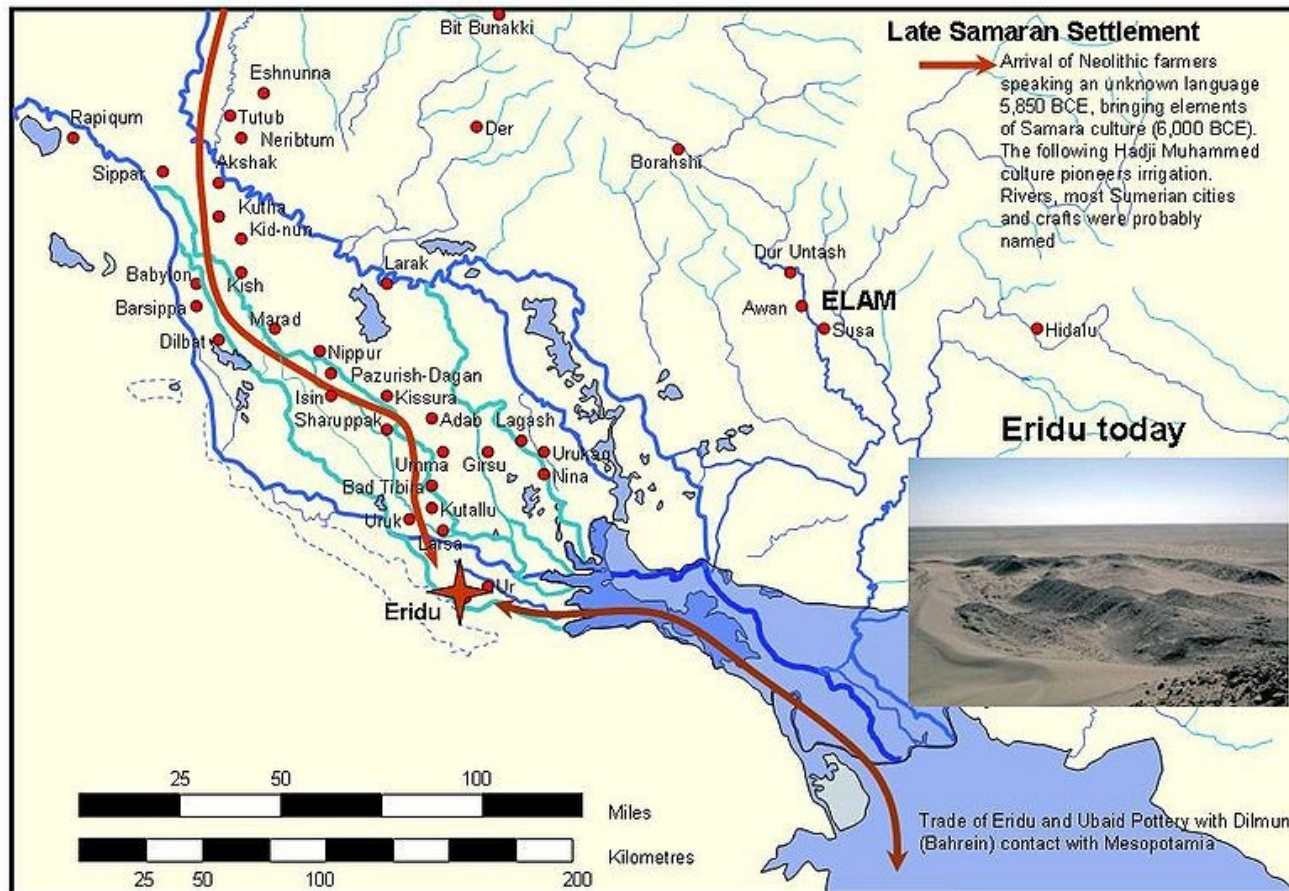
Bilingual Texts that Helped other Scripts - Behistun Inscription



Akkadian, Elamite and Old Persian at Mount Behistun,
Kermanshah, Iran

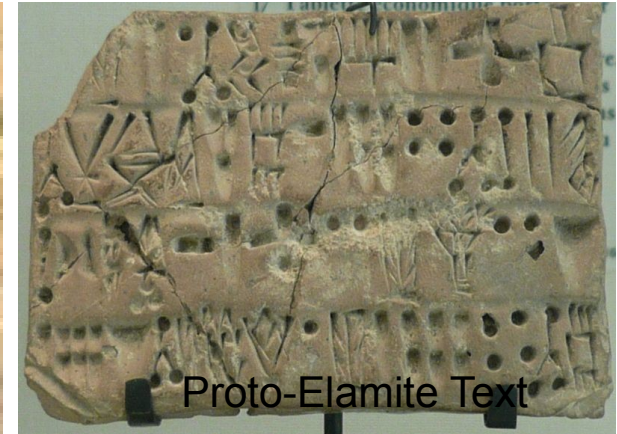
Proto-Sumerian Language

SUMER, AKKAD AND ELAM



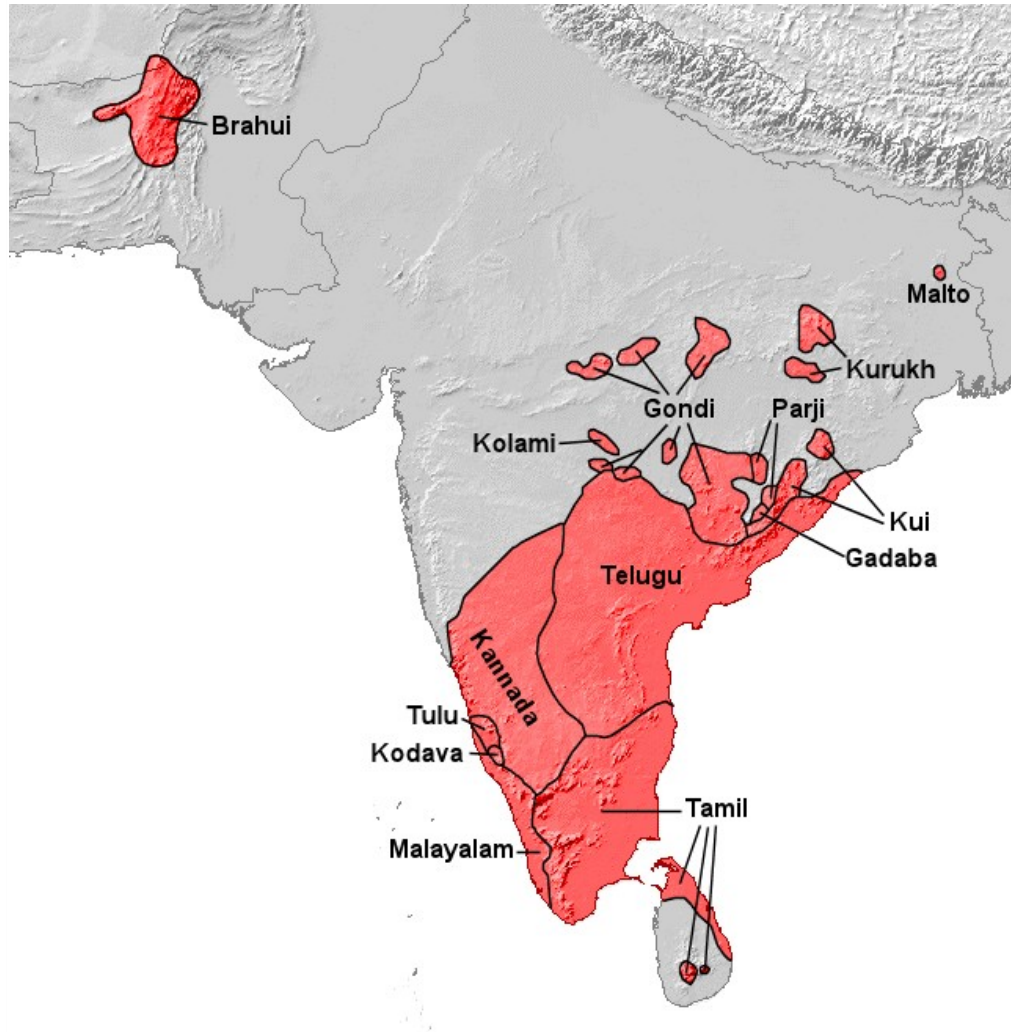
D. R. Hunter, compared the Indus script to contemporaneous scripts such as Sumerian and found common features.

Proto-Elamite Language



David McAlpin suggested that the Indus script evolved from a proto-Elamo-Dravidian language. This hypothesis is being questioned now

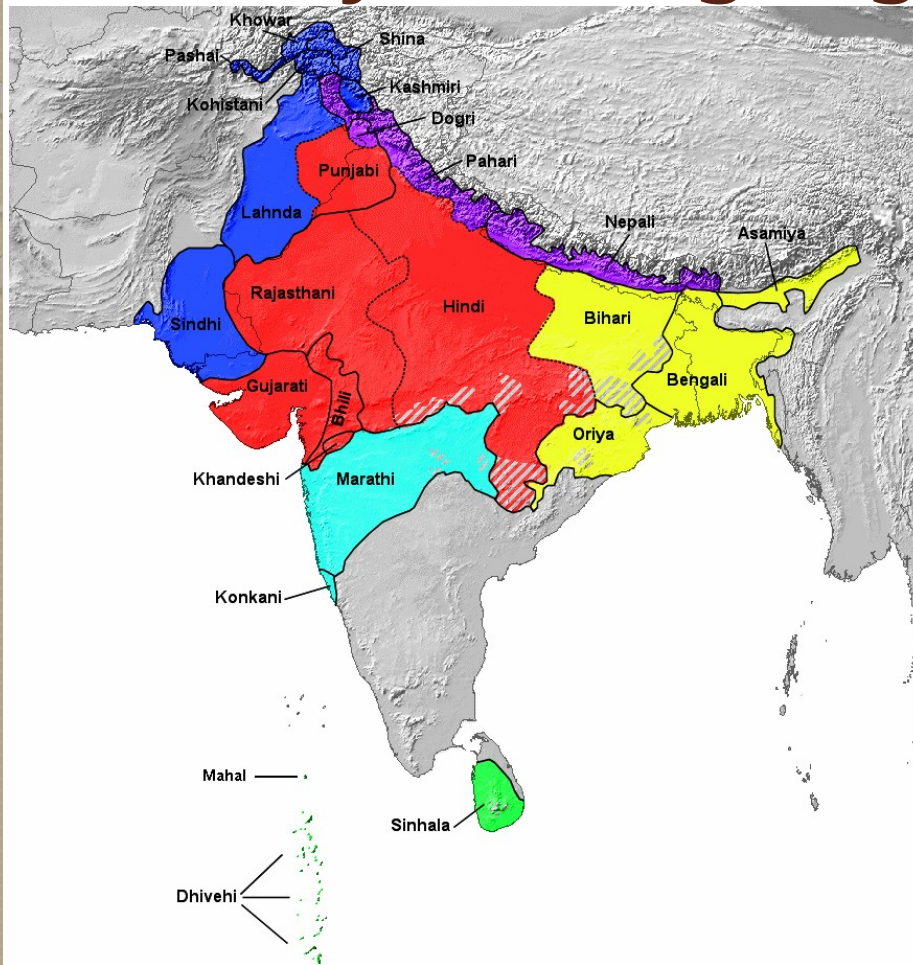
Dravidian Languages



Dravidian languages are mainly spoken in southern India and parts of eastern and central India as well as in northeastern Sri Lanka.

Epigraphically the Dravidian languages have been attested since the 6th century BC. Only one Dravidian Language, the Brahui language, is exclusively spoken outside India.

Indo-Aryan Languages

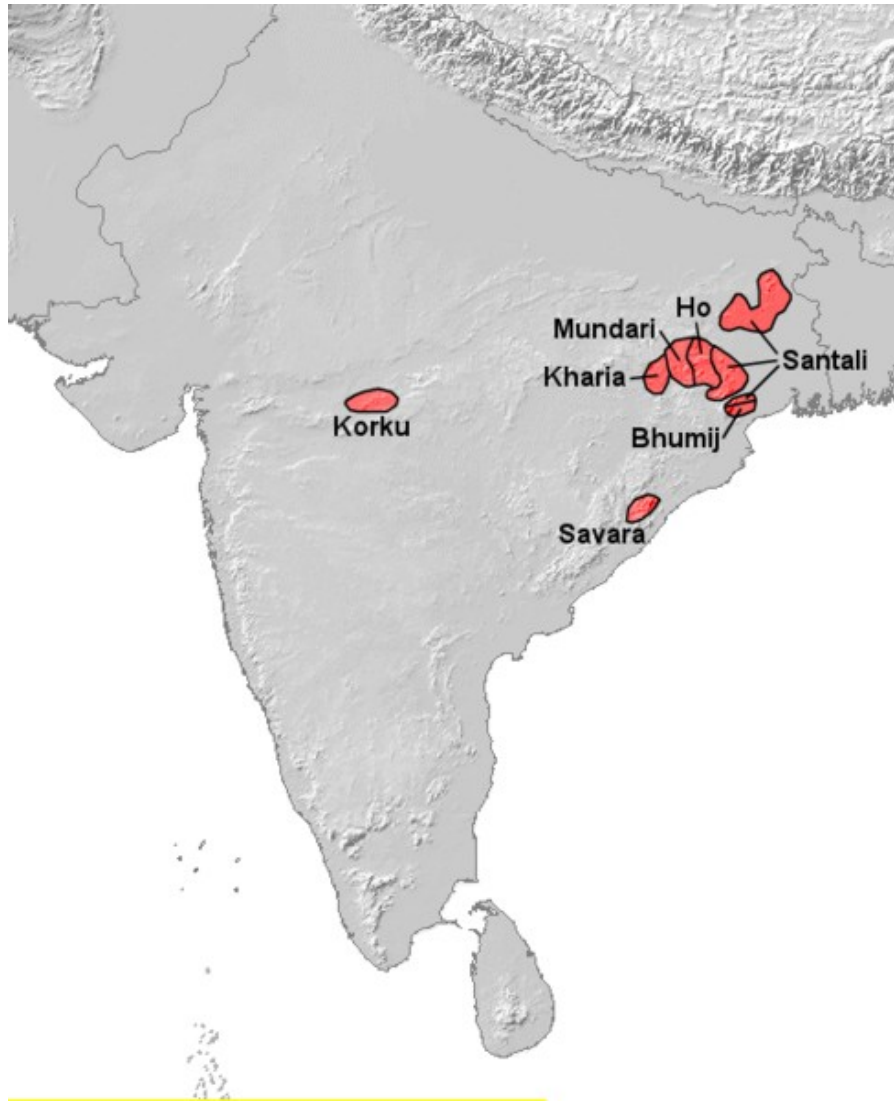


Some scholars believe that Sanskrit is indigenous to India, and this was the language spoken by the Harappans.

However, the earliest date for the Rg Veda is around 1500 BCE, much later than the decline of the Harappan civilization.

■ Central zone ■ Northern zone ■ Northwestern zone ■ Eastern zone ■ Southern zone ■ Insular (Southern)

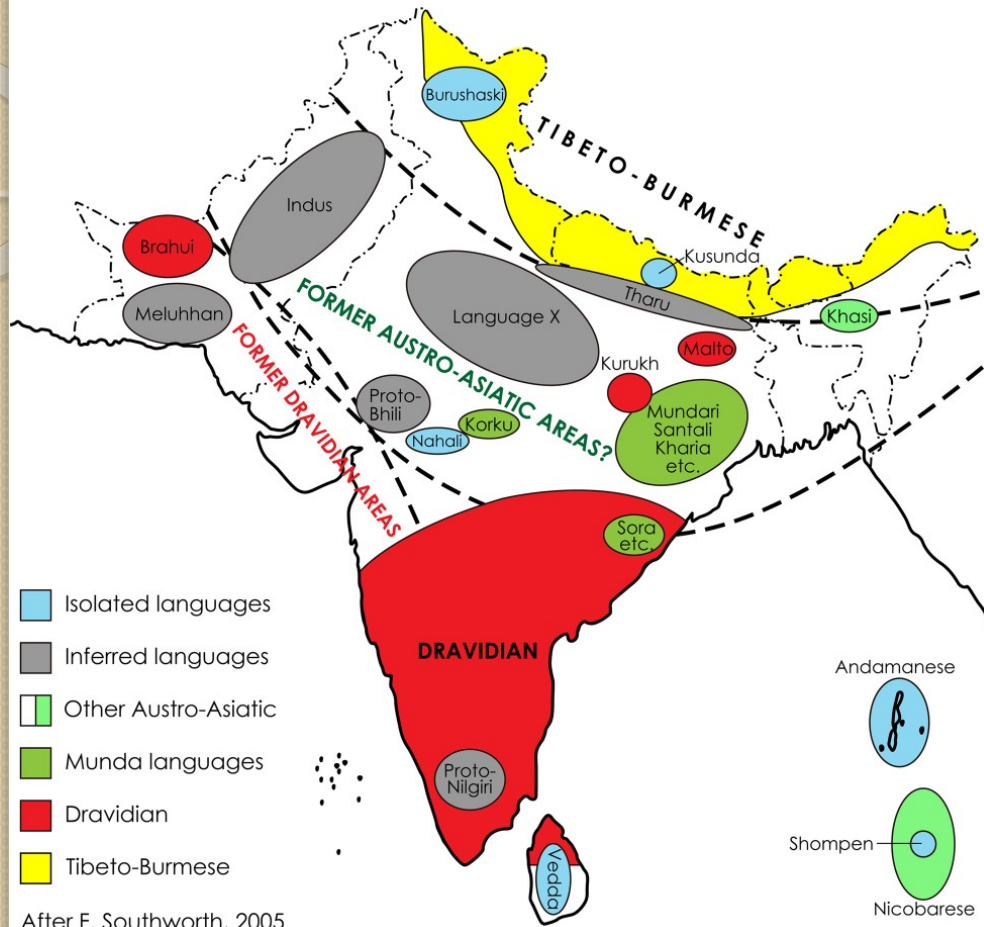
Munda Languages



The Munda languages belong to the Austroasiatic language family and are spoken in central and eastern India and Bangladesh

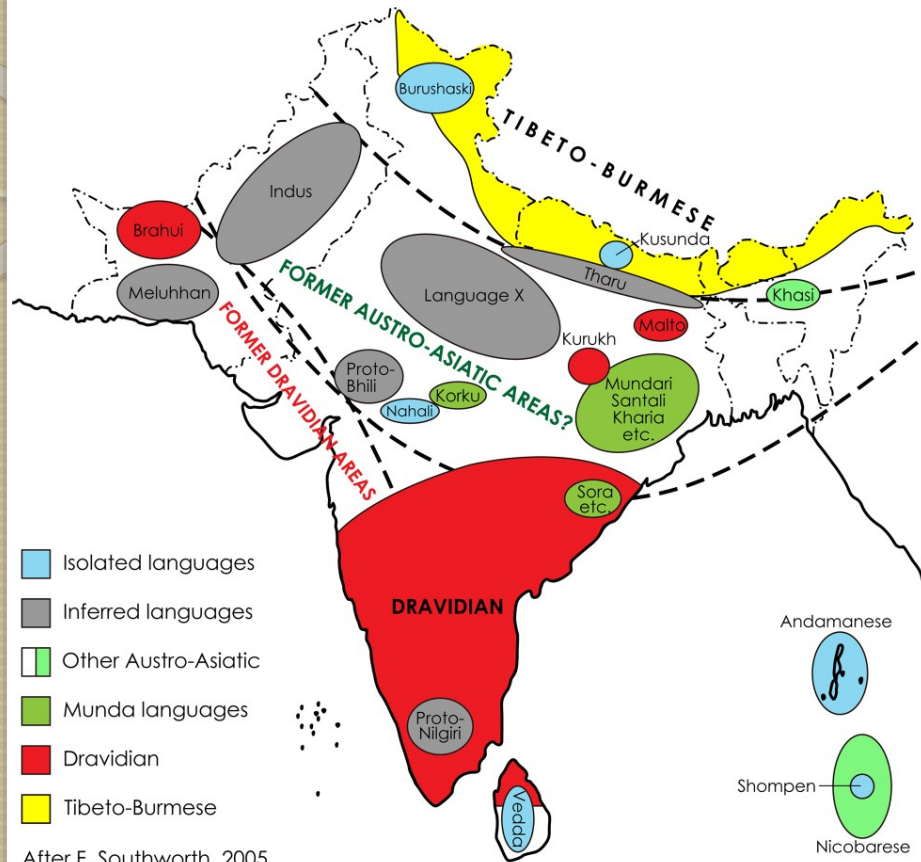
The origins of the Munda languages are not known, though it is generally thought that they are autochthonous (indigenous) languages of eastern India.

Language X



While analyzing agricultural terms used in the Gangetic plains, Colin Massica found that more than 25% of the terms could not be traced back to either Dravidian or Indo-Aryan languages. Massica believes that a now extinct language was spoken at the time of Indus Valley Civilization. Massica calls it "Language X".

Multiple Languages



According to this theory, the peoples of the Harappan civilization spoke multiple languages, including Dravidian, Munda, Language X and others.

According to this theory, as the Indus civilization started to weaken, the peoples of the civilization migrated to various other parts of the country along with their languages. Some languages, such as Language X, simply vanished.

Some scholars, however, maintain that the uniformity of the Indus script found at the various excavation sites preclude the use of multiple languages.



Questions?



Thank You