

Hinduism

Changes and Continuities



Original Hinduism

- Main religion in India for over 2000 years
- Practiced many sacrifices
- Main gods were Indra the king, Brahma, and Shakti
- Rigveda
 - Indo-Aryan collection of Vedic hymns in Sanskrit
- Women are considered aspects of nature or the embodiment of Shakti
- Worship in temples



Indra



Brahma

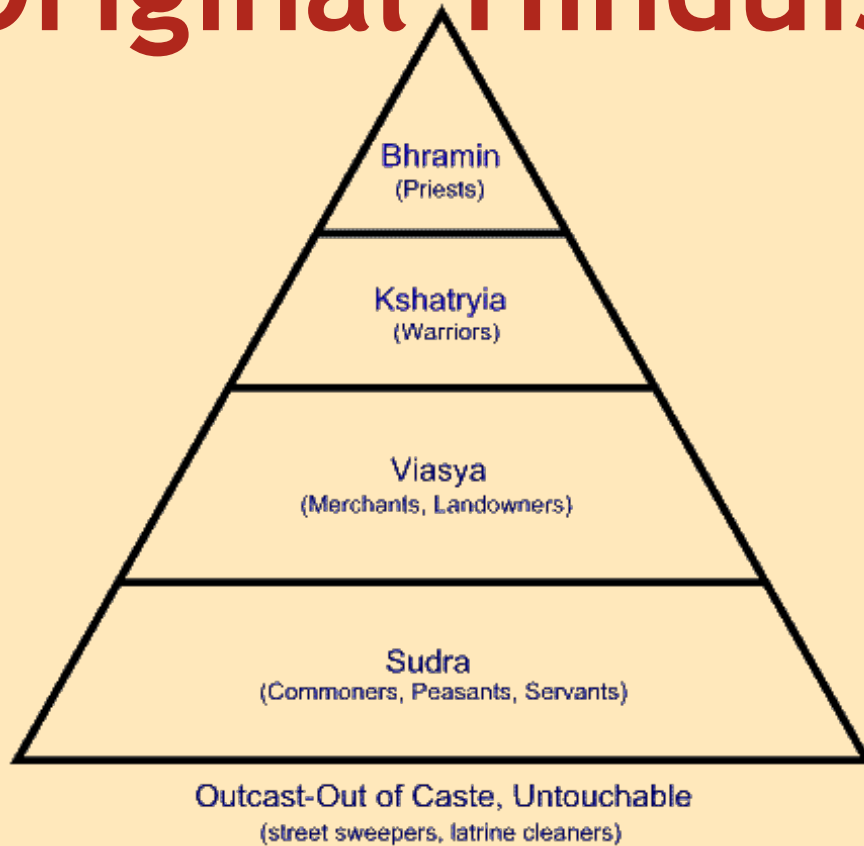


Shakti

Original Hinduism

- “Good” Hindus didn’t eat any meat
 - No one ate beef due to cows being sacred
- 3 debts
 - 1) to scholars to learn the Vedas
 - 2) to ancestors to produce a son
 - 3) to gods to provide sacrifices
- Some animal sacrifices
- Ganesha and Krishna didn’t exist yet in Vedic

Original Hinduism





Major Turning Points

Invasion of Indo-Europeans-1500 B.C.E

- gave sky-form of Hindu gods
 - ex.) Garuda, Varuna
- transferred the Hindu language to those who believed in Hinduism
 - Hindu was commonly spoken by Indo-Europeans



Garuda



Varuna

Competition between Hindus and Buddhists

- 6th to 11th century
- Hindus in time recognized the Buddha as an incarnation of Vishnu
- Certain Buddhist shrines, such as the one marking the Buddha's enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, have remained partly under the supervision of Hindu ascetics and are visited by Hindu pilgrims.

Bodh Gaya



Alexander the Great 326 B.C.E

- Brings his army and the influence of Greek civilization into the northernmost regions of India.
 - The Indian Mauryan Empire is created to counter this Greek invasion of culture and ideas.
- **400-500 C.E.** – Hinduism returns as the dominant religion of India.
- Temples and monuments are built to honor Hindu ideas, gods and beliefs
 - This is the era of the Hindu Renaissance.

Vedic Religion

Buddhists opposed many features of Brahmanism

- rejected authority of the vedas
- criticized religious values of sacrifice
- denied the spiritual worth of an individual and an individual's social/religious role could be determined by caste
- 400 B.C.E.-800 C.E. -- The Hindu response to Buddhism and Jainism result in further changes to Hinduism's main teachings

Hinduism enters the United States

- Hindus are small minority
 - Take on the interests of their non-Hindu peers
- Western style schools teach to question and challenge
 - Hindu elders aren't prepared to answer childrens' religious questions
 - Don't think of Ganesha as a real being- more as a symbol, a superstition, a way of explaining philosophy to children and the uneducated



Modern Hinduism



Hinduism Today:



- Main gods are Brahma, Vishnu, & Shiva
 - Vishnu incarnates the earth, Brahma is cursed & is not worshipped separately, Shiva is responsible for death & destruction
- Worship to an altar in their homes everyday
- Many festivals are celebrated depending on deity (33)
 - Ganesha, Shiva, Vishnu, Laxmi, & Parvati

Hinduism Today:



- They don't eat meat on Mondays, Thursday, Saturdays & on most festival days
- Marriages are arranged within the respective caste
- Hindu women consider their husbands to be God & men view their wives as Ardhangini/Patni (half body)
 - “The Better Half”
 - husbands & wives share everything, including identities



Continuities



Continuities

- Caste system was always present
 - Brahmans or Priestly caste remained unchanged
- Trade routes present
 - People traded through long-distance trade routes and overseas

Bibliography

<http://www.hinduismtoday.com/modules/smartsection/item.php?itemid=1226>

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/11/07/world/hinduism-fast-facts/>

<http://www.boloji.com/index.cfm?md=Content&sd=Articles&ArticleID=1494>

<http://history-of-hinduism.blogspot.com/2010/10/hinduism-timeline.html>

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/63933/bhakti>

<http://hinduismfacts.org/hindu-customs-and-traditions>

<http://www.usefulcharts.com/religion/main-hindu-gods-chart.html>

<http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/society/hinduism-responses-to-buddhism-jainism.html>