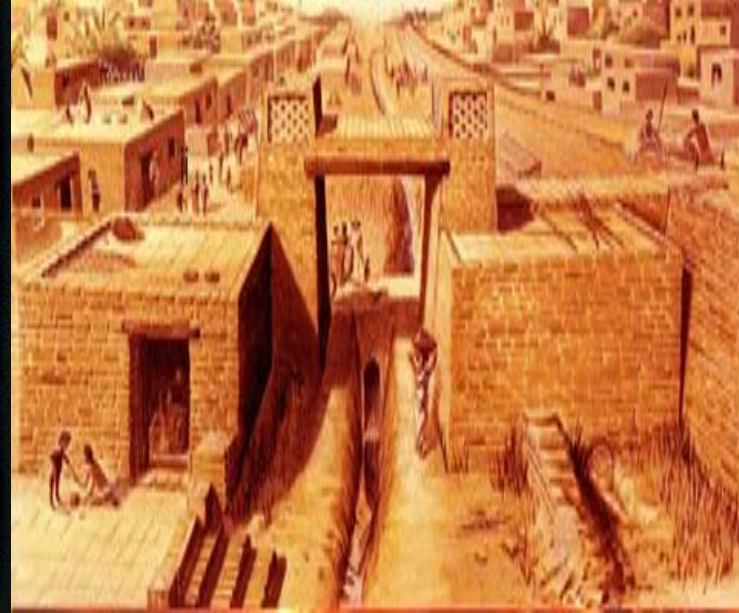


In the Earliest Cities



ORIGIN



The remains of Indus Valley Civilization or Harappan Civilization are found in India and Pakistan. They have dated from **2600 BC** to about **2000 – 1500 BC**. It is one of the most popular ancient civilizations in human history, also known as Indus Valley Civilization.

ORIGIN



The Cities which were discovered in the Punjab province of Pakistan (Harappa) and in the Sind Province (Mohenjo-Daro) , are one of the earliest cities of not only India but the whole world. Harappa was excavated in 1920 by the Archaeological Survey of India while Mohenjo-Daro, almost 500 KM away, was excavated in 1922.

MAJOR CITIES OF HARAPPA



Harappa was the first city to be discovered, so other sites with similar town planning, which were discovered after Harappa, came to be referred as Harappan culture.

The major cities discovered after Harappa included :-

Mohenjo-Daro in the Larkana district of Sind Province Pakistan

Lothal in Gujarat in India

Kalibangan in Rajasthan India

Dholavira in Gujarat India

So there were initially 5 major cities excavated, including Harappa.



TOWN-PLANNING

Town was divided in to two parts:- The western Part and Eastern part

The western part was smaller and upper part .It had the citadel, which in turn had all the important buildings inside it, e.g granary, Great Bath etc... Probably ruling class and elite lived here.

Eastern part was larger and lower part with simple houses.

Probably common people lived here.

Both parts of the town were separated by a brick wall.

CITADEL



A CITADEL IS A FORTRESS WHICH IS SITUATED ON HIGH GROUND ABOVE A CITY.



THE INTER LOCKING PATTERN MEANT AN ARRANGEMENT IN WHICH BRICKS ARE LINKED AND SO WE CANT NOT MOVE ONE WITHOUT AFFECTING OTHERS.IT MADE THE STRUCTURE STRONG



The Great Bath



The Great Bath:- It was found at Mohenjo-Daro, lined with baked bricks which were covered with plasters. It was made water tight with natural tar. There were Steps leading down to it. It was connected through a well for filling water that was drained out after use. Rooms were built around the bath probably for changing clothes. Most probably the ruling elite took a dip in it on special occasion.



HOUSES



Houses of Common people in Harappa culture:
Houses were made of baked bricks, single or double storeys.
Rooms were built around a courtyard, generally walls facing the roads had no windows.
Each house had a separate bathing space, some even had a well.
House drains were connected to the street drain

Drainage System



They had elaborate drainage system , cities had covered drains laid out in straight lines. Each drain had gentle slope to facilitate the flow of water. House drains were connected to the street drains. There were inspection holes at intervals for cleaning purposes.

Society:

It was divided in to classes like Rulers , Craft persons, Peasants and Specialist etc.

Specialist : A person who is trained to perform only one type of Work, for example one worker specialised in cutting stone and the other one in shaping it and yet another in polishing it.



Special Crafts : Most of the things were made of stone , Shell and metal.





Unique Objects : Seal , weighing stones , Beads & Pottery



Seals Generally made of stone
Mostly Rectangular in size
Images of Animals with some text on top of it (see the image at right) Text on seals were earliest example of writing in India .
Seals were probably used for stamping the goods of merchants.



Theses were made of Chert Stones, precisely shape and were , used for weighing precious stones or metals like gold etc...



Mostly made of red Carnelian stone which was cut, shaped and polished with a hole in it to pass a string.
Used for making jewelleryes



They made beautiful pots of clay with designs in black colour



Did Harappan People used Cotton? The Answer is yes:-



Stone statue of the bearded from Mohenjo-Daro shows an embroidered cloth.



Spindle whorls (Takli used for spinning thread) made of Terracotta and faince have been found at Harappan Sites.

Piece of cloth attached to a silver vase and copper objects have been found at Mohenjo-Daro



Evidences are there to show that cotton was grown in Mehrgarh around 7000 years ago.

All these proved that cotton was used in Harappa.



Faince and Raw material

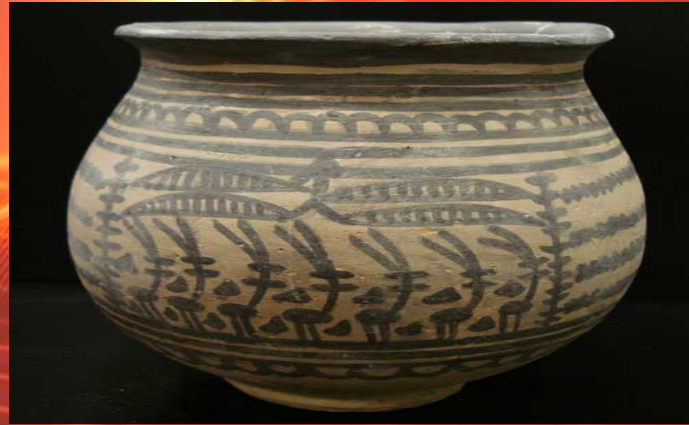
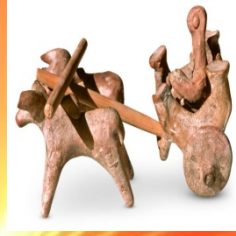


Faince was an artificial material which was produced by using gum to shape sand or powdered quartz in to an object. Then the object was glazed to give it a shiny glossy look. Objects made from faince were mostly in blue or green colour. It was used to make beads, bangles, toys, earrings etc...

**Materials which are found naturally or produced by farmers , herders
These are processed to produce finished goods
Cotton, a raw material is processed to produce cloth/fabric.**



Terra cotta



It's brownish red colour clay which was fired and used by craft persons of Harappa to make toys, ornaments, pots etc.

Food



Food was provided by farmers and herders

Plant remains found from Harappan sites suggest that crops grown included Wheat, Barley, Pulses, linseed, sesame, rice and mustard etc...

Plough, a new tool was being used for digging the soil.

Animals reared included cattle, sheep goat and buffalo.



Lothal VS Dholavira



Lothal	Dholavira
Situated near a tributary of Sabarmati river in Gujarat	Located in Khader Beyt in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat
Plenty of Raw materials e.g. precious stones available here	Fresh Water and Fertile soil available here
Famous for the dockyard located here	Unlike other towns, it was divided in to three parts, each part surrounded by massive walls.
Store House excavated, many seals and sealings found here	Large open area was used for public gatherings
It was important centre for making objects from shell, stone and metal	Large letters of Harappan script carved out of white stone and inlaid in wood ,found

Changes around 3900 years ago



- **Roads were no longer straight or broad**
- **At Mohenjo-Daro , heaps of garbage found in the middle of the roads**
- **Some houses, less impressive ones, were built in the middle of the street**
- **Less evidence of written materials like seal, are found towards the end**
- **All these show the rulers had lost control over the cities and people had started deserting the cities.**



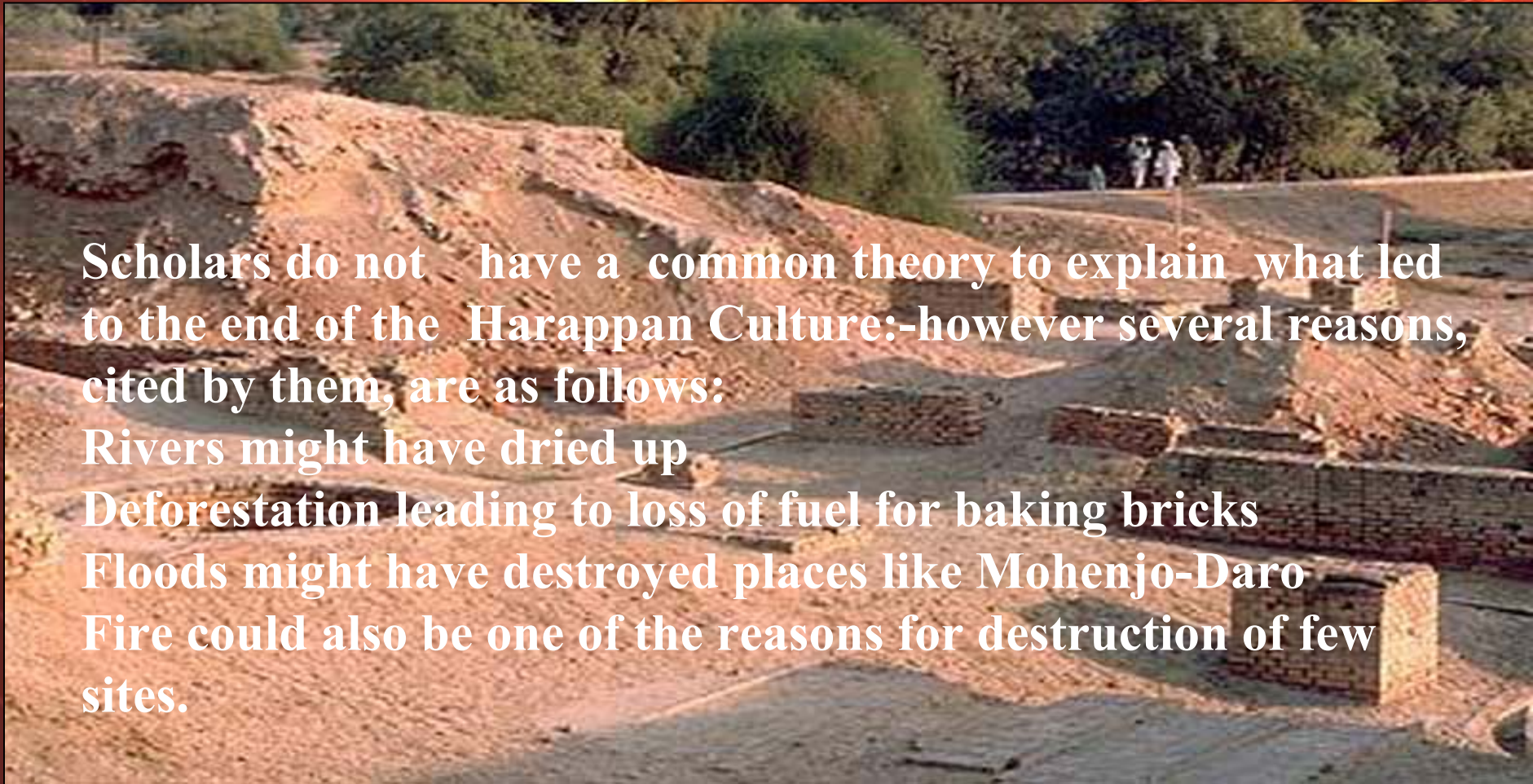
Scholars do not have a common theory to explain what led to the end of the Harappan Culture:-however several reasons, cited by them, are as follows:

Rivers might have dried up

Deforestation leading to loss of fuel for baking bricks

Floods might have destroyed places like Mohenjo-Daro

Fire could also be one of the reasons for destruction of few sites.





THANK YOU