



SOCIAL SCIENCE • CLASS 9

CHAPTER 5

State and Society

up to 1000 CE

CHAPTER NOTES

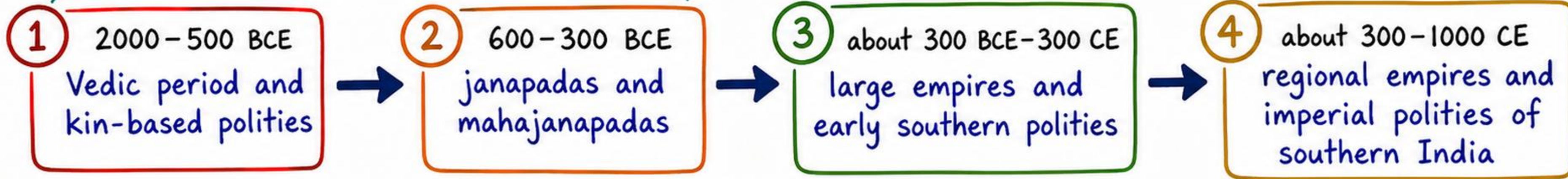
STATE AND SOCIETY UP TO 1000 CE

CHAPTER FOCUS:

- How society and systems of government developed in early India.
- How kin-based communities, kingdoms, empires and local institutions changed over time.
- Representative examples come from different regions of the subcontinent.

BROAD TIMELINE OF EARLY INDIA:

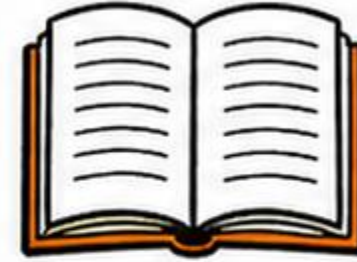
Upanishads: about 1500–300 BCE



State and society evolved gradually, differently across regions, and through many interacting traditions.

Dates are broad and overlapping.

HOW HISTORIANS KNOW:



TEXTS



INSCRIPTIONS



COINS



ARCHAEOLOGY AND MATERIAL REMAINS

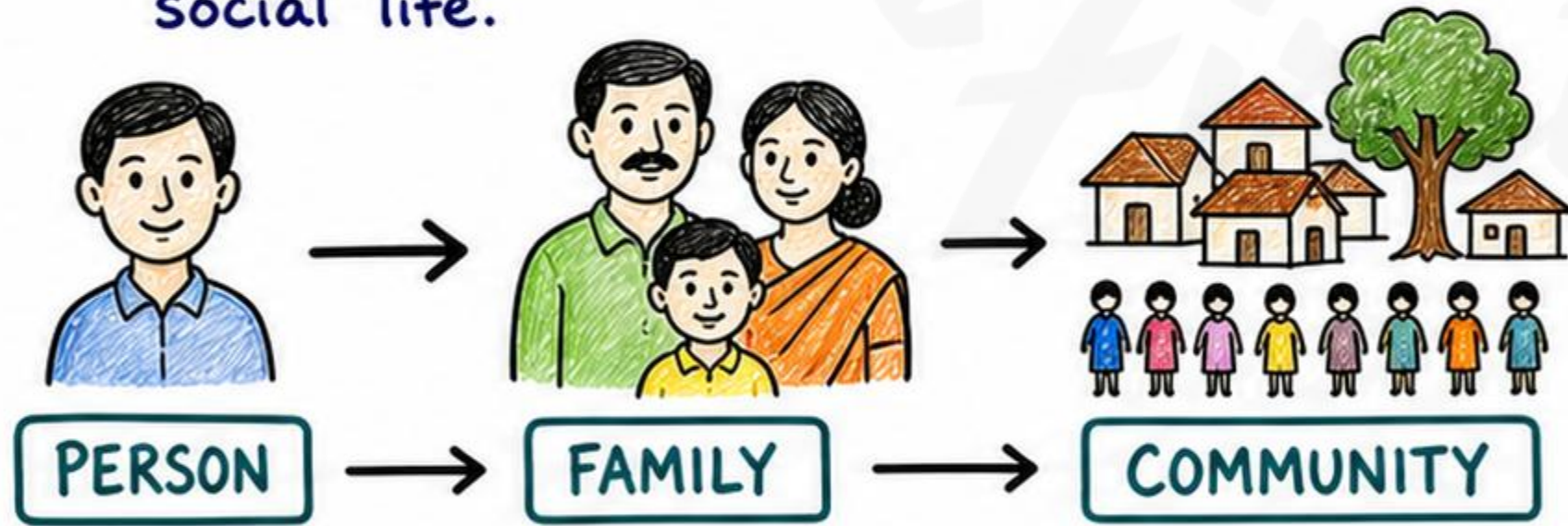
Every source has limits; historians compare different kinds of evidence.

SOCIETY AND STATE — MEANING AND EVOLUTION

SOCIETY:

A system of social relationships among people who share a territory, culture and sense of belonging.

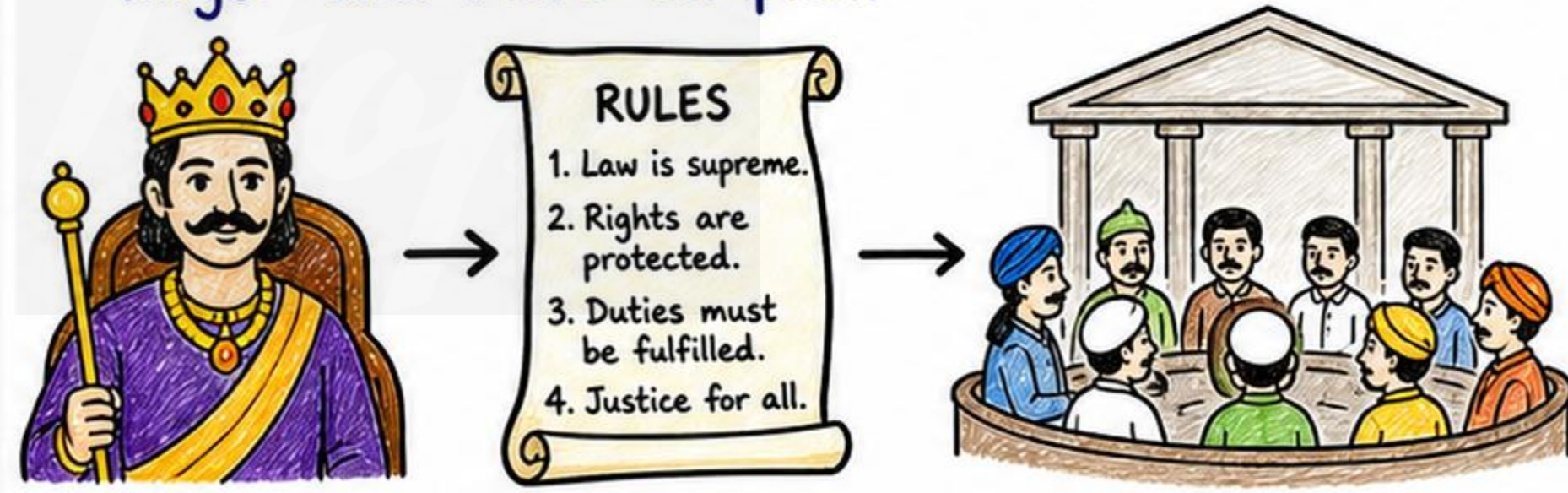
- Basic units include families or households.
- Institutions include marriage and other shared arrangements.
- Customs and accepted practices guide social life.



STATE:

An organised political system based on rules and laws.

- Defines rights and duties of rulers and subjects.
- Uses institutions to govern, administer justice and maintain order.
- Developed gradually as societies became larger and more complex.



HOW ORGANISATION CHANGED:



Takeaway: Society is mainly a network of relationships; the state is the political machinery that governs.

THE BEGINNINGS — VEDIC LITERATURE AND THE RIGVEDA

EARLIEST LITERARY SOURCE

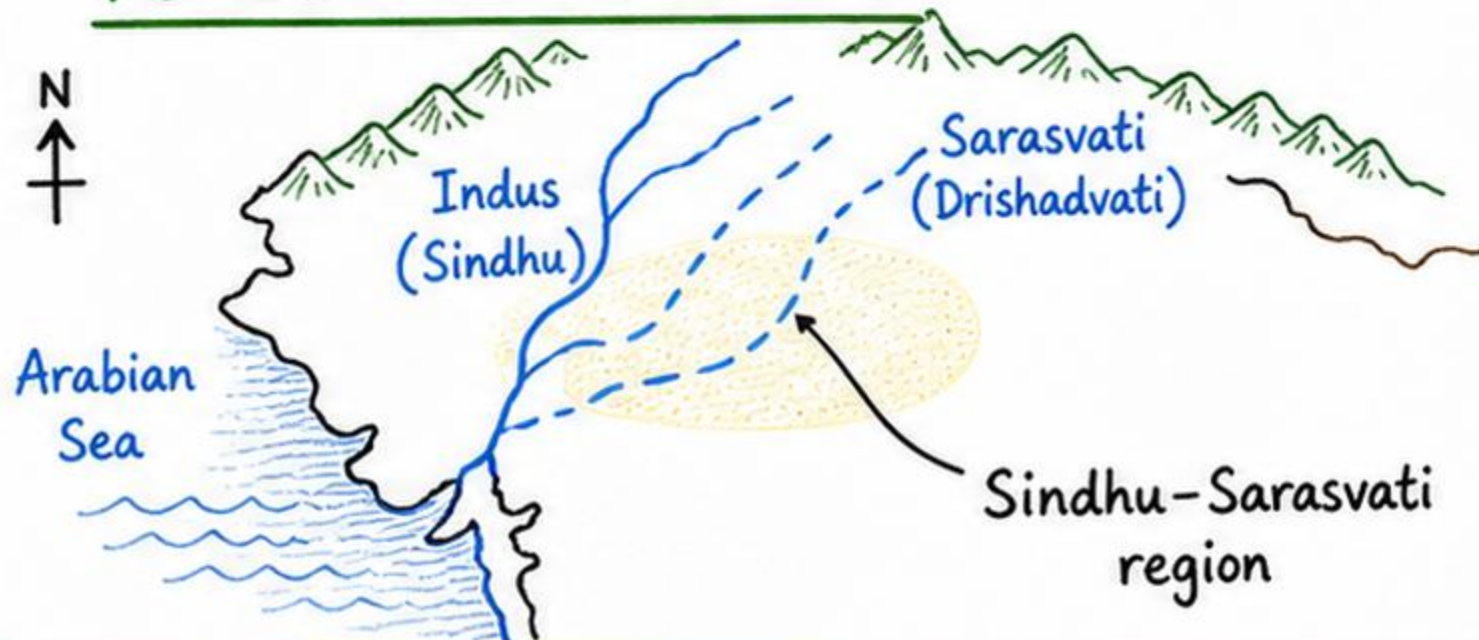
- The Vedas are the earliest known corpus of Indian literature.
- Harappan writing remains undeciphered, so it cannot yet be read as a literary source.
- Vedic literature was preserved orally for centuries before being written down.



RIGVEDA

- The Rigveda is the earliest Veda and contains 1,028 hymns called sukta.
- It includes praise of deities and reflections on creation, life, birth and death.
- Its date of composition is debated; estimates range broadly within the fifth to second millennium BCE.

PLACE AND CONTEXT



- The Rigveda was composed in the north-western Indian subcontinent.
- Both the Rigvedic world and the Sindhu-Sarasvati civilisation knew copper.

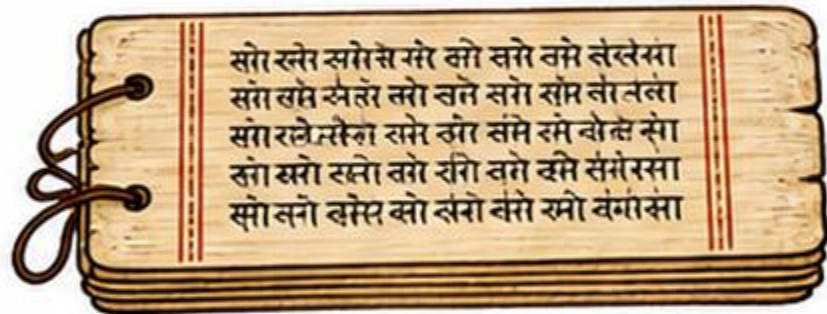
Literary and archaeological evidence must be studied together.

THE FOUR VEDAS AND THEIR FOUR PARTS

THE FOUR VEDAS

① Rigveda

— earliest Veda;
1,028 hymns (suktas);
praise of deities and
reflections on creation,
birth and death.



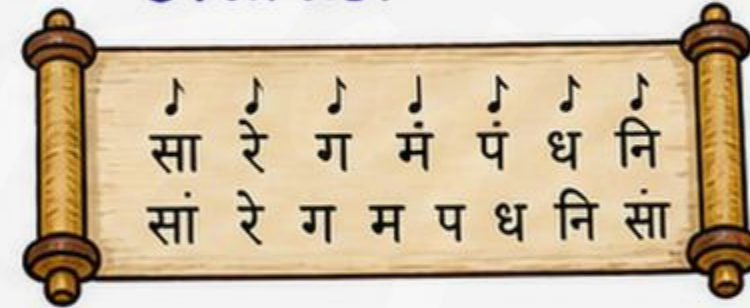
② Yajurveda

— explains the
performance of
yajnas and
includes prose
instructions.



③ Samaveda

— Rigvedic hymns
arranged for
musical recitation;
important to the
tradition of seven
svaras.



④ Atharvaveda

— hymns connected
with protection and
the treatment of
physical and
mental ailments.



FOUR PARTS FOUND IN EACH VEDA

① **Samhita** —
hymns used in
worship and yajna

② **Brahmana** —
prose explanations
of ritual
performance

③ **Aranyaka** —
forest texts and
philosophical
reflection

④ **Upanishad** —
inquiry into Atman
and the Ultimate
Universal Being,
Brahman

Remember: Brahman is a philosophical concept; Brahmana is a class of Vedic texts.

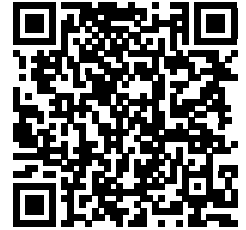


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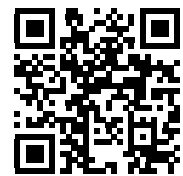


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