

Indus Valley Civilization

- Earliest known civilization of South Asia
- Historical Context
 - **Bronze Age**
 - **3300-1700 BCE**
- Contemporary civilizations:
 - **Egypt**
 - **Mesopotamia**
 - **Crete (modern SE Greece)**
- IVC was the largest

Historical Reference

Sumerian records

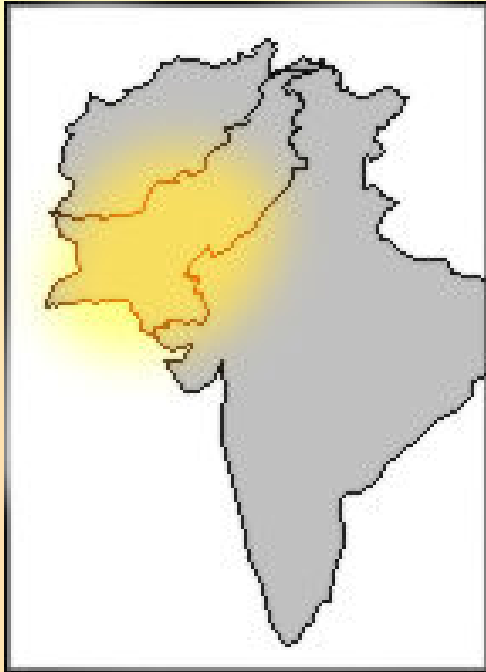
- **A prominent trading partner of Sumer**
(Mesopotamia)
 - **Meluhha (toponym)**
 - **Considered to be Indus Civilization:**
Harappa or Mohenjo-Daro)

Geographic Area Indus River Civilization



Ancient Indus Civilization

Geography



Geographic Area

Settlement Areas:

- **Along Indus River Valley (Pakistan)**
 - **Sindh, Punjab, Baluchistan**
- **Along Oxus River**
 - **Afghanistan**
- **Westward along the coast**
 - **Up to Iranian border**

Cont'd

Geographic Area

- **India's Northwestern states**
 - Punjab, Haryana, up to New Delhi
- **Southwards**
 - up to Rajasthan and Gujarat

Discovery of IVC

- 1842: Described by Charles Masson
- 1856: British engineers used bricks for railroad construction
- 1872-1922: Some seals were discovered
- 1912: More seals were discovered
- 1922: Sites Discovered
 - **Rakhalda Bandyopadhyay**

Excavations

Starting in 1921

- Harappa
 - John Marshall
 - Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni
 - Madho Sarup

Mohenjo-Daro

- John Marshall
- R.B. Banerjee
- Others

contd

Excavations

- 1945: Further excavations of Mohenjo-Daro, sites in Baluchistan and Afghanistan
 - **Mortimer Wheeler**
 - **Ahmad Hasan Dani**
- 1964-65: Last major excavations

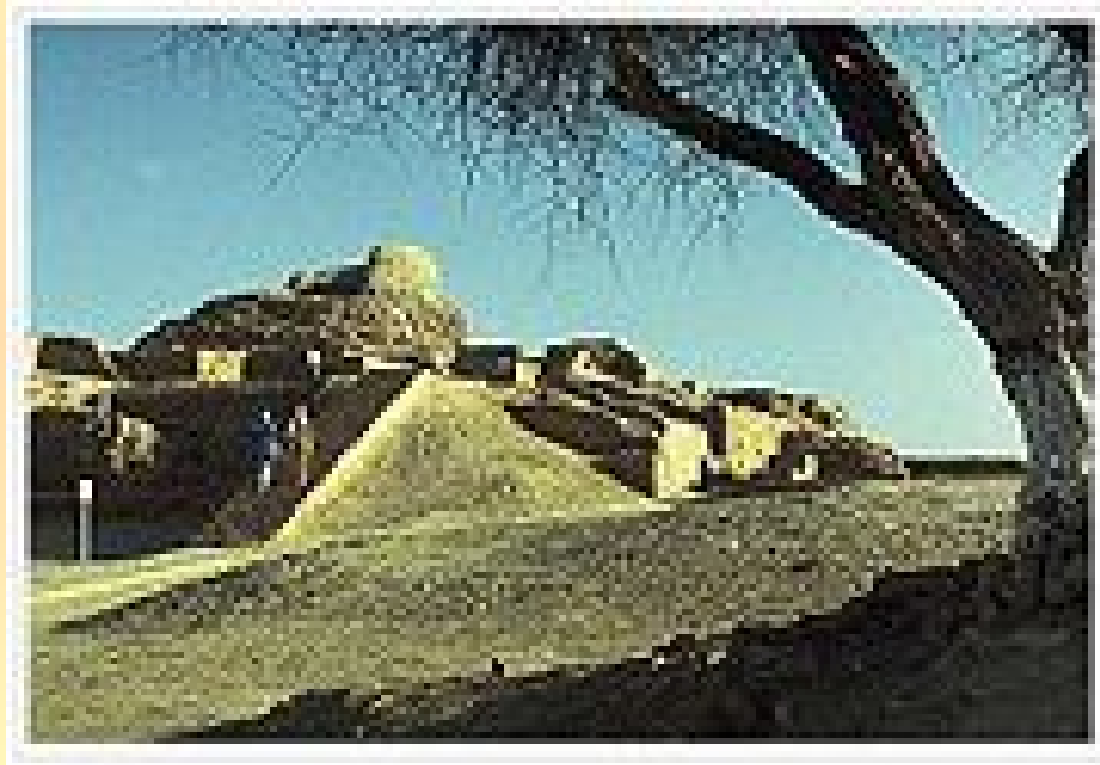
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Excavations

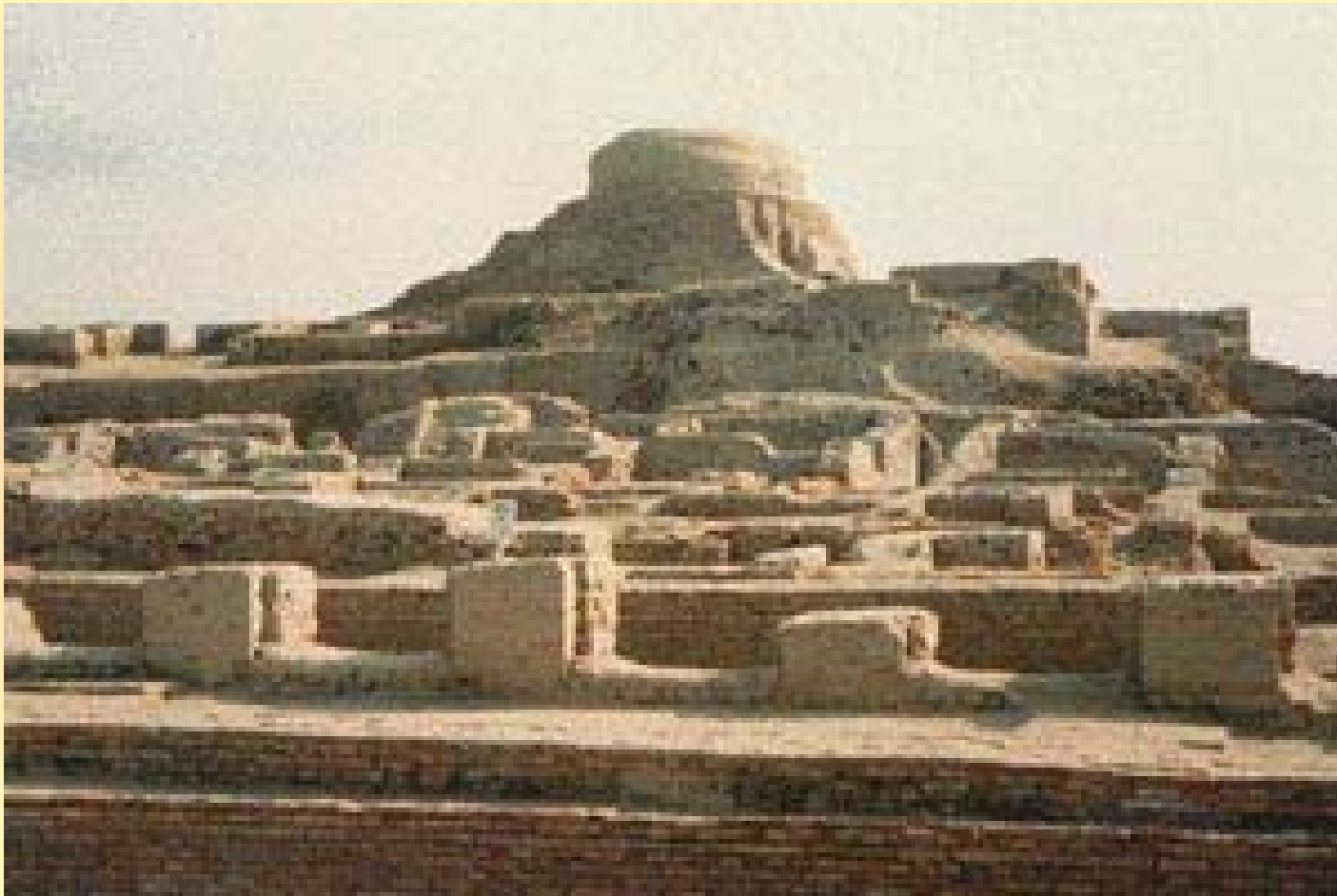
- 1980's: Surface surveys and soft techniques
 - **German and Italian survey groups**
- 1986 onwards
 - **Joint project with US**

Mohenjo-Daro

Eastern Mound



Mohenjo-Daro



Mohenjo-Daro



Citadel-Mohenjo-Daro

Western Mound



Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro

- Large urban cities
- Divided into 2 parts:
 - Citadel
 - Lower town
- Mud-brick buildings
- Well planned city blocks
- Wide streets

Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro

- 2-Storeyed houses
 - About same standards
 - Low wealth concentration Public buildings
- Administrative Centers (?)
- Trade Centers
- Well developed drainage system

Mohenjo-Daro



Great Bath¹⁹ of Mohenjo-Daro



23 x 40 Ft; 8 Ft deep: Earliest public water tank in ancient world

Granery



Harappa



Harappa



Brick Houses-Harappa



Wells at Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro

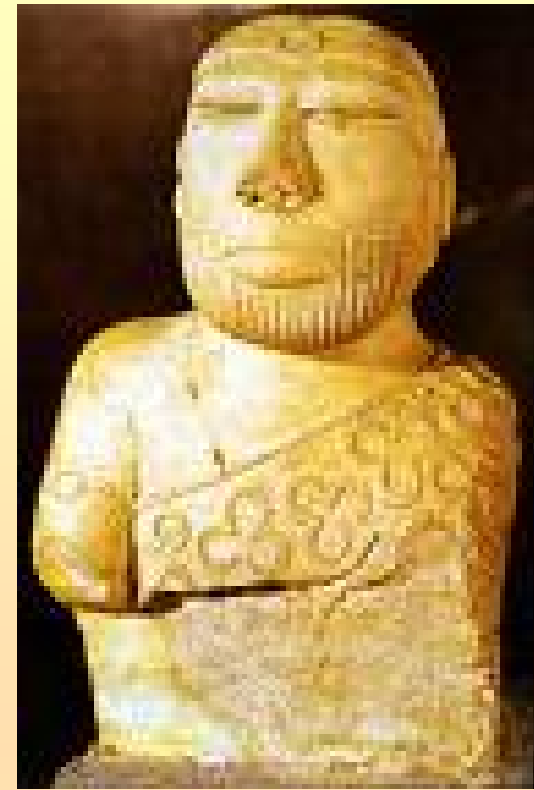
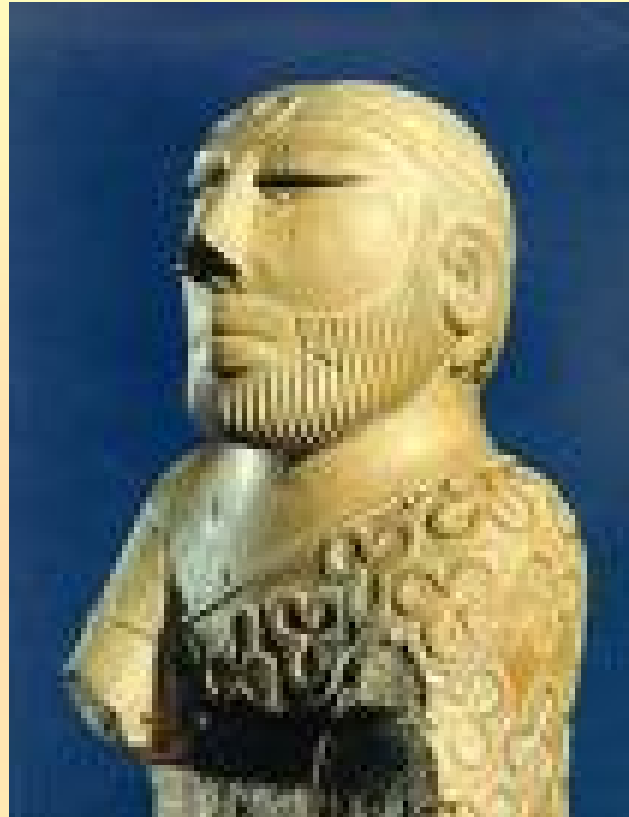


Artifacts

Arts & Culture

- Gold, silver, and bronze ornaments
- Seals: showing animals and some script
- Ceramic toys
- Games
- Pottery (distinctive black-on-red)
- Etched Carnelian beads
- Make-up and toiletry items
- Figurines: dancing; yoga
- Music: Harp

Priest King



Dancing Girl



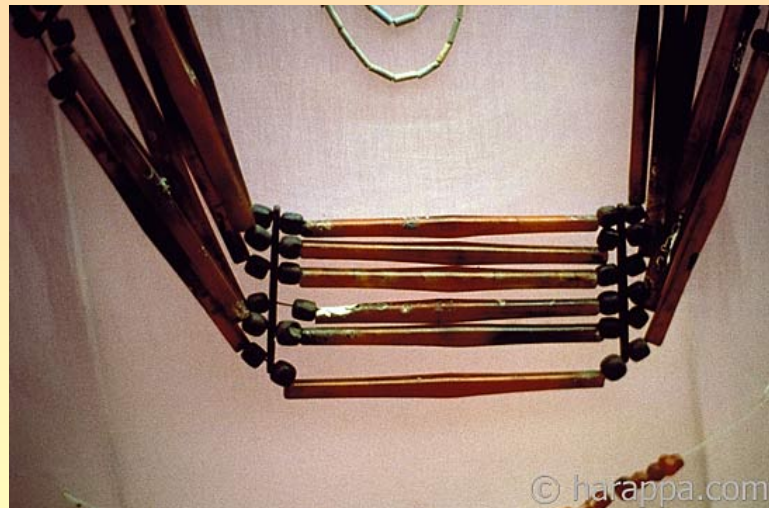
About Dancing Girl

- **Mortimer Wheeler: "There is her little Baluchi-style face with pouting lips and insolent look in the eye. She's about fifteen years old I should think, not more, but she stands there with bangles all the way up her arm and nothing else on. A girl perfectly, for the moment, perfectly confident of herself and the world. There's nothing like her, I think, in the world."**

About Dancing Girl

- John Marshall, one of the excavators at Mohenjo-daro, described her as a vivid impression of the young ... *girl, her hand on her hip in a half-impudent posture, and legs slightly forward as she beats time to the music with her legs and feet*
- Indus Vally Civilization

IVC Ornaments



Terracotta Artifacts



Seals: Animals and Script



Yoga Seal



Cultural Glimpses



Narrative Seal



Trade & Transportation

- Trade-based economy
- Bullock carts
- Boats
- Maritime trade
 - Iran, Turkmenistan
 - Mesopotamian civilization
- Caravan trade
 - Central Asia

Bullock Cart

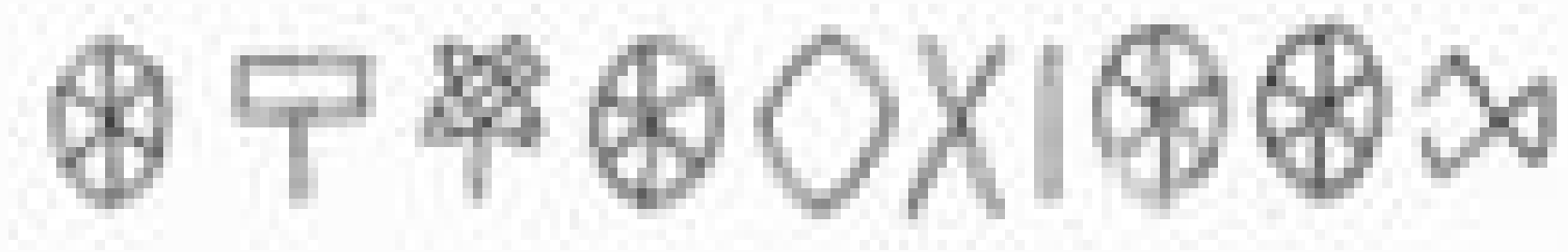


Writings on Seals



IVC Writing

Does not seem highly evolved compared to other civilization of the time



Weights



Religion

- Worship of a mother Goddess
 - **Fertilty?**
- Shiva lingam type symbols found
- Figure seated in Lotus Poaition surrounded by animals
 - **Pashupati**
- Earlier culture: Burial of the dead
- Later culture: Cremation

Decline of IVC

- Starting around 1700 BCE
- Ecological changes
 - Floods
 - Climate change: Drier, colder
 - Weaker monsoons
 - Rivers drying up

Replica

