

HISTORY

Unit I: The Story of the First Cities Harappan Archaeology

Broad Overview: Early Urban Centres

Story of Discovery: Harappan Civilisation

Excerpt: Archaeological Report on a Major Site

Discussion: How it has been utilised by Archaeologists/Historians)

Unit II: Political and Economic History: How Inscriptions tell a Story

Broad Overview: Political and Economic history from the Mauryan to the Gupta period

Story of Discovery: Inscriptions and the Decipherment of the Script. Shifts in the Understanding of Political and Economic History

Excerpt: Ashokan Inscription and Gupta Period Land Grant

Discussion: Interpretation of Inscriptions by Historians

Unit III: Social Histories using the Mahabharata

Broad Overview: Issues in Social History, including Caste, Class, Kinship, and Gender

Story of Discovery: Transmission and Publications of the Mahabharata

Excerpt: From the Mahabharata, illustrating how it has been used by Historians

Unit IV: A History of Buddhism: Sanchi Stupa

Broad overview:

- (a) A Brief Review of Religious Histories of Vedic Religion, Jainism, Vaishnavism, and Saivism
- (b) Focus on Buddhism

Story of Discovery: Sanchi Stupa

Excerpt: Reproduction of Sculptures from Sanchi

Discussion: Ways in which Sculpture has been interpreted by Historians, and Other Sources for Reconstructing the History of Buddhism

Unit V: Medieval Society through Travellers' Accounts

Broad Overview: Outline of Social and Cultural life as they appear in Travellers' Accounts

Story of their Writings: A discussion of where they travelled, why they travelled, what they wrote, and for whom they wrote.

Excerpts: From Alberuni, Ibn Batuta, Bernier

Discussion: What these Travel Accounts can tell us and how they have been interpreted by Historians?

Unit VI: Religious Histories: The Bhakti-Sufi Tradition

Broad Overview:

- (a) Outline of Religious Developments during this Period
- (b) Ideas and Practices of the Bhakti-Sufi Saints

Story of Transmission: How Bhakti-Sufi compositions have been preserved

Excerpt: Extracts from Selected Bhakti Sufi Works

Discussion: Ways in which these have been interpreted by Historians

Unit VII: New Architecture: Hampi

Broad Overview:

- (a) Outline of New Buildings during the Vijayanagar period — Temples, Forts, Irrigation Facilities
- (b) Relationship between Architecture and the Political System

Story of Discovery: Account of how Hampi was found

Excerpt: Visuals of buildings at Hampi

Discussion: Ways in which Historians have analyzed and interpreted these Structures

Unit VIII: Agrarian Relations: The Ain-i-Akbari

Broad Overview:

- (a) Structure of Agrarian Relations in the 16th and 17th Centuries
- (b) Patterns of Change over the Period

Story of Discovery: Account of the Compilation and Translation of Ain-i-Akbari

Excerpt: From the Ain-i-Akbari

Discussion: Ways in which Historians have used the text to reconstruct History

Unit IX: The Mughal Court: Reconstructing Histories through Chronicles

Broad Overview:

- (a) Outline of Political History c. 15th-17th Centuries
- (b) Discussion of the Mughal Court and Politics

Story of Discovery: Account of the Production of Court Chronicles, and their Subsequent Translation and Transmission

Excerpts: From the Akbarnama and Padshahnama

Discussion: Ways in which Historians have used the Texts to reconstruct Political Histories

Unit X: Colonialism and Rural Society: Evidence from Official Reports

Broad Overview:

- (a) Life of Zamindars, Peasants, and Artisans in the Late 18th Century.
- (b) East India Company, Revenue Settlements, and Surveys
- (c) Changes over the Nineteenth Century

Story of Official Records: An account of why Official Investigations into Rural Societies were undertaken and the Types of Records and Reports produced

Excerpts: From Firminger's Fifth Report, Accounts of Francis Buchanan-Hamilton, and Deccan Riots Report

Discussion: What do the Official Records tell and do not tell, and how they have been used by Historians?

Unit XI: Representations of 1857

Broad Overview:

- (a) The Events of 1857-58
- (b) How these Events were recorded and narrated

Focus: Lucknow

Excerpts: Pictures of 1857; Extracts from Contemporary Accounts

Discussion: How the Pictures of 1857 shaped British Opinion of what had happened

Unit XII: Colonialism and Indian Towns: Town Plans and Municipal Reports

Broad Overview: The Growth of Mumbai, Chennai, Hill Stations, and Cantonments in the 18th and 19th Centuries

Excerpts: Photographs and Paintings; Plans of Cities; Extract from Town Plan Reports; Focus on Kolkata town Planning

Discussion: How can the above sources be used to reconstruct the History of Towns? What do these sources not reveal?

Unit XIII: Mahatma Gandhi Through Contemporary Eyes

Broad Overview:

- (a) The Nationalist Movement 1918-48

(b) The Nature of Gandhian Politics and Leadership

Focus: Mahatma Gandhi in 1931

Excerpts: Reports from English and Indian Language Newspapers and Other Contemporary Writings

Discussion: How Newspapers can be a Source of History

Unit XIV: Partition through Oral Sources

Broad Overview:

(a) The History of the 1940s

(b) Nationalism, Communalism, and Partition

Focus: Punjab and Bengal

Excerpts: Oral testimonies of those who experienced Partition

Discussion: Ways in which these have been analysed to reconstruct the History of the Event

Unit XV: The Making of the Constitution

Broad Overview:

(a) Independence and the New Nation-state.

(b) The Making of the Constitution.

Focus: The Constitutional Assembly debates

Excerpts: From the Debates

Discussion: What do such debates reveal and how they can be analysed?