

Ashoka In Ancient India

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Ashoka In Ancient India

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Ancient India Harvard University Press

Ancient Indian History

Asoka The Rosen Publishing Group, Inc

Foundation -- Transition -- Maturity -- War -- The wilderness.

Aśoka and the Decline of the Mauryas Hachette India

Buddhism has produced a cultural legacy more glorious than most great faiths. Initially spreading throughout Asia, over the centuries it triumphed not by the might of military conquest but by virtue of its revolutionary ideas and profound insights. For two-and-a-half millennia, both wealthy patrons and humble devotees have created a rich legacy of sacred art and architecture, from devotion paintings and manuscripts to some of the most magnificent temples and monasteries ever built. Stunning color photographs present a vivid portrait of this venerable religion and its great treasures—from its place of origin in northern India and out through its diffusion among the different kingdoms and empires of central, southern and eastern Asia—examining each geographical region in turn and Buddhism's influence on and contribution to the culture. An illuminating commentary places the creations of Buddhist artists and artisans in their geographical, historical, and artistic contexts and explains the significance of the faith's devotional paintings, manuscript art, sculptures, architecture, and sacred motifs and symbols.

Ashoka in Ancient India Harry N. Abrams

Ungainly in appearance, disliked by his father, the king, but nurtured by his mother, Ashoka worked to elicit his elders' approval. At the age of 18, his father sent him to quell a rebellion that his brother, the crown prince, had failed to do. His success propelled him to be appointed as viceroy of a province. There he met Devi, a beautiful, devout Buddhist. With the death of his father, supported by the chief minister, Ashoka was crowned the new king. Ashoka ruled the Indian subcontinent from 269 bce to 232 bce. After the Kalinga War, a turning point for Ashoka, his devotion to Buddha's teachings became unconditional, and he based his governance on its precepts of non-violence, tolerance and compassion. His support for Buddhism helped it grow from a small sect to a world religion. When it spread to Asia, his model of Dharmaraj was emulated as exemplary kingship by many Asian rulers through history. Prime Minister Nehru, in *The Discovery of India*, described Ashoka as 'a man who was greater than any king or emperor'. He worked to incorporate Ashoka's secular approach and considerate administration in India's Constitution. As a young democracy, India must adopt both Ashoka's and Nehru's vision of compassionate governance to mature as a nation.

The Maurya Empire AuthorHouse

An illuminating history of the ancient Maurya Empire and its great leader Ashoka, offering insight into the lasting political and cultural legacies of both. At its peak in 250 BCE, the Maurya Empire was the wealthiest and largest empire in the world, extending across much of modern India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. In this book, Colleen Taylor Sen explores the life, achievements, and legacy of the Maurya emperor Ashoka, one of the greatest leaders in Indian history. Sen relates how, after a bloody war in 261 BCE, Ashoka renounced violence and spent the rest of his life promoting religious tolerance, animal rights, environmental protection, peace, and multiculturalism—a policy he called Dhamma. This well-illustrated book explores the legacy and influence of the Mauryas in politics throughout Southeast Asia, China, and India, as well as contemporary popular culture.

Early India and Pakistan Harvard University Press

The book presents the English translation of the inscriptions of Asoka, one of the most sincere followers of the Buddha. The objective of the book is to carry the message of Asoka's edicts to the public. Although the translation closely follows the texts of the epigraphic records, it has been made simple so that it is easily intelligible to the general reader.

To Uphold the World Cavendish Square Publishing, LLC

This book is a great contribution to Peace Research. It places India in the world as a worthy player in international relations from ancient times. The selection of four of the most significant historical peaks over two millennia, the Ashoka era, the Pala era, the Orientalist era and the Gandhi era shows the uniqueness of India's peaceful history, relevant not only for herself, but for the whole of humankind. To the point that in present times, her engagement is destined to contribute to the urgent long-awaited transformation of the United Nations Organization. J.S.

Early India and Pakistan Reaktion Books

India has a long history rich in culture. The ancient civilizations of India—the Indus Valley Civilization, the Maurya Empire, and the Gupta Empire—were made up of sophisticated people whose art and lives contributed greatly to future generations. In addition to learning about the culture of ancient India, readers will learn how political and social changes of any region affect its art and culture. Boasting engaging text, rich and colorful illustrations, and an enhanced e-book option, this title is a valuable resource for report research.

The Civilization of Ancient India and Southeast Asia iUniverse

The Mauryan Empire faced off against Roman invasion and became one of the most well known empires of the world. Learn about their established military prowess and the trade and influence of a culture that covered much of India and the Middle East, one of the earliest empires in the world.

Ashoka and the Maurya Dynasty Viji Books India Pvt Ltd

This book interleaves the history of post-Independence archaeology in India with the life and times of Madhukar Narhar Deshpande (1920-2008), a leading Indian archaeologist who went on to become the director-general of the Archaeological Survey of India. The story is told through a main character - Deshpande himself - some of whose writings have been included here. Equally, there are others who figure in the narrative as it reconstructs and recounts the story of Indian archaeology after 1947 through those lives as also through the institutional history of the Archaeological Survey and the processes that were central to the discoveries it made and the challenges it faced.

Ashoka, the Visionary Marg Publications

India's lost emperor Ashoka Maurya has a special place in history. In his quest to govern India by moral force alone Ashoka turned Buddhism from a minor sect into a world religion and set up a new yardstick for government which had huge implications for Asia. But his brave experiment ended in tragedy and his name was cleansed from the record so effectively that he was forgotten for almost two thousand years. But a few mysterious stone monuments and inscriptions survived, and the story of how these keystones to the past were discovered by British Orientalists and their mysterious lettering deciphered is every bit as remarkable as their author himself. Bit by bit, fragments of the Ashokan story were found and in the process India's ancient history was itself recovered. In a wide-ranging, multi-layered journey of discovery that is as much about Britain's entanglement with India as it is about India's distant past, Charles Allen tells the story of the man who was arguably the

Asoka, the Buddhist Emperor of India Saurabh Singh Chauhan

Ashoka the Great, the ruler of ancient India's largest kingdom, took the path of peace, tolerance, non-violence and compassion after a fierce battle in Kalinga. He now addressed his subjects as a father would his children, and erected pillars that spread his thoughts throughout the land in the people's own language. He put their welfare above all else and worked towards that for the rest of his life. One of the most well-known symbols from India's history, the Ashoka chakra, now adorns India's national flag, and the lion capital from his pillars is our national emblem. In this lively, engrossing account of Ashoka's life and the times, Subhadra Sen Gupta deftly brings him alive again from behind the swirling mists of time.

Beloved of the Gods S. Chand Publishing

From c. 324 BCE to c. 185 BCE, the Mauryas controlled almost the entire Indian subcontinent with efficiency and administrative finesse. Beginning with the origins of Magadha in the sixth century BCE, this definitive book on the Mauryas captures the drama, the colourful betrayals and the intrigues of the Mauryan dynasty in Magadha, starting with its enigmatic founder, Chandragupta Maurya, and his even more enigmatic mentor, Chanakya/ Kautilya, who helped him to get the throne. Chandragupta's son and heir, Bindusara, is an extremely shadowy, elusive figure in the historical narrative of the Mauryas. Sandwiched between his well-known father and his even more well-known son, Ashoka, Bindusara has slipped through the cracks of known history. Yet the little bits of evidence that we glean about him from varied sources suggest a ruler of power and foresight. A man of eclectic and whimsical tastes, even, who ensured that his heir would inherit a vaster empire than he did. Ashoka, Bindusara's son, was not only the most powerful Mauryan ruler but also one of the best-known monarchs in Indian history. There are several wildly imaginative tales that document his transition from Ashoka the Fierce to Ashoka the Contrite, consequent on the battle of Kalinga in c. 261 BCE where, horrified at the bloodshed, he underwent a radical personal and spiritual transformation and documented this fact all over his empire through inscriptions on pillars and rocks that have endured till today—a brilliant, pioneering method of communication. An incisive wit and humour makes Devika Rangachari's *The Mauryas* sparkle even when it is disentangling grave accounts of significant battles or tedious details of city planning. Culling details from secular and religious literary traditions, Graeco-Roman accounts and archaeological evidence to elucidate this lesser-known period of our ancient past, *The Mauryas* concludes with an analysis of the enduring legacy of this remarkable dynasty and its strong resonances in our present.

The Legend of King Aśoka Abacus Software

Dive into the captivating world of ancient India. This insightful work meticulously pieces together the life, legend, and myth surrounding one of history's most enigmatic figures, Ashoka Maurya. Through its well-structured chapters, the book unfolds a vivid narrative that explores not only Ashoka's life and accomplishments but also the broader historical and cultural context in which he thrived.

S. Chand's Simplified Course in Ancient Indian History Mitchell Lane Publishers, Inc.

Through his third century BCE quest to govern the Indian subcontinent by moral force alone, Ashoka transformed Buddhism from a minor sect into a major world religion. His bold experiment ended in tragedy, and in the tumult that followed the historical record was cleansed so effectively that his name was largely forgotten for almost two thousand years. Yet, a few mysterious stone monuments and inscriptions miraculously survived the purge. In *Ashoka: The Search for India's Lost Emperor*, historian Charles Allen tells the incredible story of how a few enterprising archaeologists deciphered the mysterious lettering on keystones and recovered India's ancient past. Drawing from rich sources, Allen crafts a clearer picture of this enigmatic figure than ever before.

Ancient India/Maurya Empire Beacon Press

At The Beginning Of The Twenty-First Century, We Cannot Escape The Turbocharged Global Economy We Live In. Yet The Very Forces That Link All Of Us Have Accelerated The Dissolution Of Traditional Sources Of Social Authority And Historical Identity, Spurring Increasingly Violent Counter Movements. We Realize Traditional National Politics And The Reorganization Of All Social Values Around Markets Cannot Hold Together The Six And A Half Billion Inhabitants Of This Small Planet The World Needs A New Global Order Based On A Common Global Ethic And Global Justice. To Uphold The World Is Bruce Rich'S Deeply Illuminating And Thought-Provoking Exploration Of Such An Alternative. His Search To Found A Civil And International Order On Principles That Transcend The Goals Of Pure Economic Efficiency And Amoral Realpolitik Is Inspired By The Writings And Lives Of Two Of The Greatest Figures Of Ancient India Ashoka And Kautilya. Ashoka Provides A Unique Example Of A World Ruler His Empire At The Time Was Arguably The World'S Largest, Richest And Most Powerful Multi-Ethnic State Who Tried To Put Into Practice A Secular State Ethic Of Non-Violence And Reverence For Life, Which He Also Extended To International Relations. Kautilya, One Of History'S Greatest Political Geniuses, Wrote The World'S First Treatise On Political Economy, The Arthashastra, Which Proclaims Accumulation Of Material Riches As The Chief Underpinning Of Human Society. Both Addressed The Questions Of Political Realism And Idealism, The Role Of Force And Violence In International Relations, And The Tension Between Economics And Ethics. Through The Retelling Of Mythical And Historical Accounts, Bruce Rich Distils The Message Of Ashoka And Kautilya To Help Us Uphold Our World In The Twenty-First Century. A Unique Blend Of Historical And Political Narrative Combined With Reflections On Contemporary Society, The International Environment And Human Rights, To Uphold The World Is Particularly Timely, Because It Puts Forth A Truly Original Perspective And Thinking On Our Responses To The Political, Economic And Ethical Challenges Of Globalization. 'The Reader Is Drawn Powerfully Into A Long-Gone World In Which An Extraordinary Human Being Dramatically Changed His Own Life And The World Around Him . . . A Highly Readable Book On The Importance And Reach Of Some Arguments In Ancient India, And On Their Relevance For Global Problems Today.' From The Foreword By Amartya Sen. 'To Uphold The World Should Serve As A Source Of Great Inspiration . . . It Is My Hope And Prayer That Readers Today May Be Inspired By This Tale Of A Powerful Ruler To Find Ways To Contribute To Making The World . . . A More Just And Peaceful Place.' From The Afterword By His Holiness The Dalai Lama

Ashoka Motilal Banarsidass Publ.

In the third century BCE Ashoka ruled in South Asia and Afghanistan, and came to be seen as the ideal Buddhist king. Disentangling the threads of Ashoka's life from the knot of legend that surrounds it, Nayanjot Lahiri presents a vivid biography of an emperor whose legacy extends far beyond the bounds of his lifetime and dominion.

greatest ruler India has ever known.

Daily Life in Ancient India Penguin UK

'There are many missing pieces in the jigsaw puzzle that is ancient India, but those we have yield a rich tapestry.' The oldest surviving love graffiti on a cave wall immortalizing an intimate bond in the third century BCE; charred seeds and chewed animal bones that provide evidence of a peoples' food obsessions; architectural minutiae that point to the alarming regression of a civilization's potty habits; intriguing sculptures that reveal myriad facets of the human-animal relationship... In *Time Pieces*, award-winning historian Nayanjot Lahiri whimsically sifts through intricate clues left behind by the early inhabitants of the Indian subcontinent - in plaques and inscriptions, fragments of jewellery, bones and tools, poetry, art and pottery - to reveal to us our ancient land in all its variety, splendour, complexity and contradictions. Sparkling with wit and reflective of a scholar's keen and curious energy, this delightful volume seamlessly connects the past to the present and a civilization to the world beyond.

Ancient India Bloomsbury Publishing

In the annals of history, there are rare figures whose lives transcend their time, leaving an indelible mark on the tapestry of human civilization. Ashoka the Great, often dubbed "The Enlightened Ruler," stands as one such luminary figure. His story, one of profound transformation and enduring legacy, continues to captivate generations. In this journey through the life and times of Ashoka, we traverse the corridors of ancient India, exploring an epoch marked by both conquest and enlightenment. The tale of Ashoka Maurya begins in 304 BCE, a significant year that heralded the birth of this remarkable figure in Pataliputra, the capital of the Maurya Empire. From his earliest days, Ashoka's life was intertwined with the grand narrative of a powerful empire, where the fate of millions was shaped by the decisions of a few. We uncover the formative years of Ashoka's education and upbringing, the foundations upon which his reign would be built. The ascent to the throne in 272 BCE marked a crucial turning point. Ashoka's journey as the third Mauryan emperor was not simply an ascent to power; it was the start of a profound odyssey, a saga marked by military conquests that painted the map of the empire in the hues of expansion. However, it was the Kalinga war in 261 BCE, a watershed moment in history, that etched an enduring impression on Ashoka's soul. The sheer brutality and suffering of that conquest triggered a transformation within the emperor, altering the course of his life and reign forever. This transformation led Ashoka on a journey of introspection and spiritual awakening, culminating in his embrace of Buddhism, a path that redefined the essence of his governance and reign. He pivoted away from the pursuits of conquest, dedicating himself to dharma, righteous conduct, and the pursuit of peace. **Early Life and Ascension:** Ashoka was born to Emperor Bindusara and Queen Dharma. As a young prince, he showed remarkable potential in various fields including administration, warfare, and governance. His upbringing in the royal court and exposure to diverse cultures prepared him for his eventual role as a ruler. In 268 BCE, Ashoka succeeded his father and embarked on a journey that would redefine the history of the Indian subcontinent. **Conquest and Transformation:** Ashoka's early years as a ruler

were characterized by military conquests, expanding the Mauryan Empire to its zenith. However, the aftermath of the Kalinga War in 261 BCE deeply affected him. Witnessing the immense suffering and loss of life compelled Ashoka to renounce violence and embrace the principles of non-violence, compassion, and moral righteousness. **Spread of Buddhism:** Under the influence of Buddhist teachings, Ashoka underwent a profound personal transformation. He adopted the principles of Buddhism and actively promoted its spread within his empire and beyond. He erected numerous stupas, monasteries, and pillars engraved with his edicts, which emphasized moral conduct, social welfare, and religious tolerance. His efforts contributed to the globalization of Buddhism and its lasting impact on the world. **Legacy and Impact:** Emperor Ashoka's reign stands as a testament to his commitment to social welfare and ethical governance. His policies focused on ensuring the well-being of his subjects, promoting education, and fostering religious harmony. His rock and pillar edicts, inscribed in various parts of his empire, continue to offer insights into his philosophy and vision for a just society. **Conclusion:** Emperor Ashoka's life journey from a warrior king to an enlightened monarch is a compelling narrative of personal transformation and enduring legacy. His reign continues to inspire generations, serving as a reminder of the potential for positive change, even in the most powerful of rulers. As we explore the life of Ashoka the Great, we uncover a story of compassion, wisdom, and a remarkable pursuit of a harmonious and just society. Throughout these chapters, we unravel the narrative of a ruler whose edicts and inscriptions on pillars and rocks conveyed not just commands but a moral code, a vision for a just and compassionate society. Let's embark on this exploration, a pilgrimage through the life and legacy of a leader whose story resonates across centuries, offering wisdom and insight that transcends the confines of an era long gone.

A Peace History of India Sapna Book House (P) Ltd.

In *Ancient India: Culture of Contradictions*, one of India's most distinguished historians takes readers on an exhilarating voyage of discovery into the distant past. Upinder Singh urges us to abandon simplistic stereotypes and instead think of ancient India in terms of the coexistence of five powerful contradictions-between social inequality and promises of universal salvation, the valorization of desire and detachment, goddess worship and misogyny, violence and non-violence, and religious debate and conflict. She does so using a vast array of sources including religious and philosophical texts, epics, poetry, plays, technical treatises, satire, biographies, and inscriptions, as well as the material and aesthetic evidence of archaeology and art from sites across the subcontinent. Singh's scholarly but highly accessible style, clear explanation, and balanced interpretations offer an understanding of the historian's craft and unravel the many threads of what we think of as ancient Indian culture. This is not a dead or forgotten past but one invoked in different contexts even today. Further, in spite of enormous historical changes over the centuries, the contradictions discussed here still remain. Beautifully written, deeply original, and profusely illustrated with masterpieces of ancient, medieval, and modern art, the book brings to life the rich complexity of ancient India and its connections with the present in a vivid and compelling manner.