



MANGALORE UNIVERSITY
Department of History
MA History

First Semester

Paper No. HSH: 401 (Hard Core)

SOCIETY AND POLITY IN EARLY INDIA (UPTO 2ND C.E)

Learning objective: This course provides an insight in to the emergence of Socio-political institutions in ancient India.

Learning outcome: On successful completion of the course the students will understanding the evolution of Socio-political institutions in early India.

1. Historiographical Considerations: State and Society as represented in Colonial writings – Oriental Despotism and Asiatic Society – the nationalist response – Marxist intervention.
2. The Harappan Society: Harappan Traditions - Archaeological Evidences for the Harappan Society and State – the Mode of Political expansion.
3. Early Vedic Society: Social Organisation – Lineage society - Political Processes in Rigveda – the process of transition from Lineage to state – Centrality of the Raja – rituals, ideology and legitimation.
4. Later Vedic Period: The eastward migration and settlement of the Ganga valley – iron and the democratisation of agriculture – assimilation of diverse ethnic elements – changes in economic and social organisation – rise of new arts and crafts – *gahapathi* and *sethi* - emergence of *varnas* and Ashramas –the rise of heterodox sects – Buddhism and Jainism.
5. The Mauryan State and Society: The Tribal confederacies – Political structure of Mahajanapada –emergence of Nanda Monarchy – The Formation of Mauryan Empire – State in *Arthasastra* – State and Dhamma under Asoka.
6. Society in South India: Megalithic traditions – social groups and rituals – Sangam society.

Select Reading:

Chakravarthi, Uma, Social Dimensions of Early Buddhism, Delhi, 1987.

Herman Kulke (ed.), the State in India, New Delhi, 1984.

Kosambi, D.D., An Introduction to the Study of Indian History, Bombay, 1956.

Majumdar, R.C., ed., The Age of Imperial Unity, vol. II of the History and Culture of the Indian People, Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay.

_____. The Vedic Age, vol. I of the History and Culture of the Indian People, Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay.

Ratnagar, Shereen, Understanding Harappa: Civilisation in the Greater Indus Valley, Delhi, 2001.

Ratnagar Shereen., Enquiries into the Political Organisation of Harappan Society, Pune, 1991

Roy, Kunkum, The Emergence of Monarchy in Northern India, New Delhi, 1994.
Sharma. R.S., Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India, Rpt. Delhi, 1993
_____. Light on Early Indian Society and Economy, Bombay, 1962.
_____. Material Culture and Social Formation in Ancient India, Delhi, 1980. Sharma.
_____. Sudras in Ancient India, Delhi, 1980.
_____. The State and Varna Formation in the Mid-Ganga Plains, Delhi, 1996.
Thapar, Romila, Ancient Indian Social History: Some Interpretations, Delhi, 1980.
_____. From Lineage to State, Bombay, 1980
_____. Interpreting Early India, New Delhi, 1992.
_____. Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas, Oxford University Press.
_____. The Mauryas Re-visited, K.P. Bagchi & Company, New Delhi, 1984
Wagle, Narendra, Society at the Time of the Buddha, Bombay, 1969.
Claessen, H.J.M. and P. Skalnik, The Early State, The Hague, 1978
Krader, L. The Formation of the State, London, 1968
Mabbet, I.W., Truth, Myth and Politics in Ancient India, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1980.
Richard Fox, Kin, Clan, Raja and Rule, Oxford University Press.
Neelakanta Shastri and Srinivasachari, Advanced History of India, Madras, 1970.
Sherwani H.K., History of Medieval Deccan (1295 – 1724), Hyderabad, 1974.
Burnell A.C., Elements of South Indian Paleography, Madras, 1994.
Bilgrami S.A.A., Land Marks of the Deccan, Delhi, 1927

