

**M.A. Semester – I
HISTORY**

**Course Code: HIST 101
Course Credit: 06 (Core)**

History and Historiography

Units: 1 to 20

By: Nausheen Thakur



**Centre for Distance and Online Education
Himachal Pradesh University
Summer Hill, Shimla, 171005**

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UNIT-1

MEANING OF HISTORY

STRUCTURE

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- 1.2 Learning Objectives
- 1.3 Understanding the Scope of History
- Self-Check Exercise-1
- 1.4 Relationship of History with other Fields
 - 1.4.1 History as a Science
 - 1.4.2 History and Social Sciences
 - 1.4.3 History and Literature
- Self-Check Exercise-2
- 1.5 The Role of History
- Self-Check Exercise-3
- 1.6 Summary
- 1.7 Glossary
- 1.8 Answers to the Self-Check Exercises
- 1.9 Suggested Readings
- 1.10 Terminal Questions

1.1 Introduction

In this unit, we will introduce you to concepts related to the study of history. The study of history is important because our past determines the way we deal with the present, and therefore, it dictates what answers we offer to existing problems. The past must not be forgotten and it is essential to understand what history means, its scope in understanding our present, and its effect on the future. The Spanish philosopher and novelist George Santayana once said, 'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.' The discipline of history can be defined as the discovery, collection, organization, and presentation of information about past events. Historians believe that discussions on the problems and issues of the past may lead to answers for the problems being faced in the present. As a field of study, history encompasses many sub-fields such as cliometrics, historiography and chronology amongst others. However, the most basic and essential one of these is historiography which is the history of historical study, its methodology and practices. The unit will also discuss the relationship of history with other social sciences.

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HISTORY**

**Course Code: HIST 102
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Ancient Societies

Units: 1 to 20

By: Dr. Monica Bisht



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UNIT – 1

The Journey of Human Evolution

Structure

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Learning Objectives

1.3 Defining Human Evolution

1.3.1 Historical Background

1.3.2 Trends in Human Evolution: Understanding Pre-Modern Humans

Self-Check Exercise-1

1.4 Bipedalism

1.4.1 Theory of Bipedalism

Self-Check Exercise-2

1.5 Increase in Brain Size, Hominine Habitats, Tools, Hands, and Heads in the Pliocene and Pleistocene

Self-Check Exercise-3

1.6 Summary

1.7 Glossary

1.8 Answers to Self-Check Exercise

1.9 Suggested Readings

1.10 Terminal Questions

1.1 Introduction

Charles Darwin's 1859 publication, "On the Origin of Species," introduced his theory of evolution by natural selection with a modest statement about shedding light on human origins and history (Darwin 1859: 488). Despite Darwin's understatement, his contemporaries quickly grasped the profound implications of his theory. Over the subsequent centuries, accumulating archaeological finds, human fossils, and genetic data have transformed theories of human origins into the rigorous science of human evolution.

Darwin's original approach relied heavily on converging evidence from diverse disciplines such as geology, paleontology, zoology, botany, physiology, anatomy, and

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**Course Code: HIST 103
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Aspects of Medieval Society

Units: 1 to 20

By: Dr. Naveen Vashishta



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UNIT -1

TRANSITION FROM ANCIENT TO MEDIEVAL WORLD

Structure

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Objectives

1.3 End of Roman Empire in West

1.3.1 Factors Behind the Fall of the Roman Empire

1.3.1.1 Barbarian Invasions

1.3.1.2 Economic Instability and Dependence on Slave Labor

1.3.1.3 Emergence of the Eastern Roman Empire

1.3.1.4 Over expansion and Excessive Military Expenditure

1.3.1.5 Political Turmoil and Governance Challenges

1.3.1.6 The Huns' Incursion and Barbarian Migrations

1.3.1.7 Christianity and the Erosion of Traditional Values

1.3.1.8 Decline in the Strength of Roman Legions

1.3.2 Historical Interpretations: Crisis and Decline of the Roman Empire

Self-Check Exercise -1

1.4 The East-West Divide

Self-Check Exercise- 2

1.5 Summary

1.6 Glossary

1.7 Answers to Self-Check Exercises

1.8 Suggested Readings

1.9 Terminal Questions

1.1 Introduction

To facilitate the study of history, scholars have categorized it into ancient, medieval, and modern eras. However, there are no universally accepted dates or centuries to distinctly separate these periods. The definition of these epochs varies by

**M.A. Semester – II
HISTORY**

**Course Code: HIST 221
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History of Early India (up to c. AD 1200)

Units: 1 to 20

By: Dr. Sharda Verma



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Unit-1

Geographical Background, Survey of Sources: Literary, Archeology and Foreign Accounts

Structure

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Learning Objectives

1.3 Geographical Background

Self-Check Exercise-1

1.4 Sources of Ancient Indian History

1.4.1 Religious Sources

1.4.2 Archaeological Sources

1.4.3 Buddhist Canonical Literature

1.4.4 Jain Canonical Literature

1.4.5 Secular Literary Sources

1.4.6 Scientific Treatises

1.4.7 Sangam Literature

1.4.8 Foreign Account

Self-Check Exercise-2

1.5 Changing Interpretations of Ancient Indian History

Self-Check Exercise-3

1.6 Summary

1.7 Glossary

1.8 Answers to Self-Check Exercise

1.9 Suggested Readings.

1.10 Terminal Questions

1.1 Introduction

History is the study of human actions that have brought significant changes to human life. It explores various aspects of human existence. To understand the history of human life, we rely on different sources, which are categorized into two types: primary and secondary.

Primary sources provide direct information about past events, such as the *Arthashastra* and *Ashtadhyayi*. Secondary sources, on the other hand, are interpretations or analyses based on primary sources. While there are numerous sources for ancient Indian history, it is essential to use them carefully, as they may contain some unreliable information alongside valuable historical insights.

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**Course Code: HIST 222
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History of Medieval India (13th to 18th Centuries)

Units: 1 to 20

By: Dr. Naveen Vashishta



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UNIT-1

CHARACTERIZING MEDIEVAL INDIA: SURVEY OF SOURCES

Structure

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Objectives
- 1.3 Characterizing Medieval India
 - 1.3.1 Early Medieval Period
 - 1.3.2 Late Medieval Period
 - 1.3.3 Early Modern Period
- Self-Check Exercise-1
- 1.4 Survey of Sources
 - 1.4.1 Sources of Sultanate Period
 - 1.4.2 Sources of the Mughal Period

Self-Check Exercise-2

- 1.5 Summary
- 1.6 Glossary
- 1.7 Answers to Self-Check Exercise
- 1.8 Suggested Readings
- 1.9 Terminal Questions
- 1.1 Introduction**

The term medieval has been derived from the Latin words '*medius*' and '*aevum*' which means Middle Age. Medieval India is the phase of the Indian subcontinent that lies between the ancient and the medieval period. It is related to the time period between the 6th century, after the fall of the Gupta Empire, and the 18th century i.e. the beginning of colonial domination. For the convenience of studying the state and society of medieval India, historians usually divide the medieval period into the **Early Medieval Period (700-1200 CE)** and **Late Medieval Period (1200-1707 CE)**. According to them the early medieval period refer to the phase of Indian history that stretches from the fall of the Gupta Empire to the beginning of the Sultanate period in the 13th century. The period that comprises mainly that of the reigns of the Sultanate and the Mughal period is generally considered as the late medieval period, certainly with regional variations. The medieval period is an important period in Indian history because of the developments in the field of art and