

"On circumstantial evidence Indra stands convicted." Explain and discuss briefly the different views about a sudden end of Indus Valley Civilization.

The decline of Indus Valley Civilization is known from the changes in town planning, encroachment upon roads, development of stumps, changing in pottery design and a shift from city-centered approach to emergence of small villages.

The British archaeologist Mohinlal Wheeler believed the cause of decline is due to Barbarians invasion. In Rigveda, there is mention about

fortresses of Dasyas and Dasyus. Also Rigveda calls Indra as Purandara - destroyer of forts.

There is no other mention of forts in that period other than in Indus Valley civilization. Rigveda also mentions about a place called

Hariyupiya, on the bank of River Ravi. The Aryans fought war in this region.

However, this view is criticized because the date of decline is around 1800 BC and Aryan invasion happened around 1500 BC.

The scattered body on roads can be due to other reasons such as attacks from nearby hilly areas.

R.L. Raikes argued that decline is due to catastrophic flooding, due to tectonic upliftment that blocked the flow of River Indus. But there are criticisms that River Indus can easily breach such blocks and do not result in ~~too~~ massive floods.

H.T. Lambrick believed, the cause is shifting away of Indus, thus ~~destroying~~ the agricultural economy and hence decline.

But this theory didn't explain the cause of decline of other sites other than Mohenjodaro.

D.P. Agrawal and Sood believed that increased aridity and drying up of Ghaggar is the actual cause. But there is not much information to support the argument.

The most accepted theory is ecological imbalance of Faissewis. Greater population - humans and cattle - exploited the resources beyond the natural capacity to ~~replenish~~. Thus people moved to other regions like Gujarat & Eastern areas.

As long as there are no clear factual data, it is difficult to believe any theory. Thus focus ~~should be more on study of their~~ life style ~~and its continuity in modern times.~~

Conclude by saying that only one theory can't explain the decline as many factors combined together leading to decline of Harappan civilization

How would you explain the presence of those elements in Indian culture and civilization which are found to have existed in the Indus valley period?

The excavations in Indus valley civilization reveals that the most of the usual practices of people today are the continuation of our older traditions.

The continuity can be seen in the following:

- (a) Religion: The seal of Pasupati and terracota image of mother goddess ~~she is continued~~ shows the predecessors of today's Shiva and Shakti. Phallic worship is still continued. Also worship of trees, sacred animals, rivers are still continuing.
- (b) Town planning: Harappans followed excellent ~~town planning~~ with proper drainage facilities. The streets usually cut at right angles.
- (c) Weights and currency system: Harappans had ~~weights~~ standard measuring system. Weights were in multiples of sixteen.

(d) Transport: Bullock carts and boats were used in Harappan period. Though more advanced in modern times, we have our base in these modes. Also dockyard in Lothal is a predecessor to modern ports.

(e) Pottery: ~~It~~ Wheel made pots in modern times are similar to the pot. Also it was ~~not~~ used for daily use and also as decoration.

(f) Economy: Like Harappa, we are still an agrarian economy. ~~It~~ in terms of population. Plough and other implements were used in Harappan times. The great granary in Harappa can be related to a central food storage, which acts as a buffer. Such planning shows the presence of civic administration.

In almost all spheres, ~~we~~ today's culture have a link with Harappan civilisation. The further developments ~~is~~ in science and technology are on this foundation.

See the solution of previous years papers