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How did Ashoka contribute to the Moral and administrative welfare of his people?

→ After the conquest of Kalinga, Ashoka was disturbed by the massive deaths and suffering caused by the war. Henceforth he relinquished his policy of 'conquest of war' and replaced same by 'rule by Dhamma' → as mentioned in rock edict XII.

Ashoka promoted moral and administrative welfare of his people through his Dhamma rule. Rock edicts of Ashoka were erected so that he could directly speak to the citizens through.

Below are the broad virtues of Dhamma as mentioned in the rock edicts which Ashoka tried to promote:

For better structuring, divide answer in 2 parts... Moral welfare of Ashoka and Administrative Welfare of Ashoka

- Ban on animal sacrifice.
- Respect for Brahmanas and shramanas.
- Urged people to respect people of different faiths, and tried to build amity among different religions. (earliest idea of peaceful co-existence).
- Promoted public welfare schemes like planting trees, constructing wells, care for sick people and animals.
- Appealed people to respect parents, elders.
- Hunting expeditions were replaced by Dharmayatra.
- Ban on unnecessary ceremonies.

Ashoka appointed "Dhamma mahamatras" for the spread of above ideals of Dhamma.

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Through these policies of Dhammavijaya → Ashoka promoted.

a) Religious tolerance: The society at that time was volatile with heterogeneous sects like Hindus, Jains, Buddhists and even Yavanas (Greeks). By promoting people to respect different faiths,
Ashoka secured a stable society ~~and~~.

b) Through the above he also secured economic stability since people co-operated with the states paternalistic attitude. Ban on animal sacrifice (especially cattle) which led to agricultural surplus (cattle extensively used in agriculture). Banning ceremonies also helped economic administration.

c) Promoted international amity through friendly foreign relations. He sent Dhammayatras to foreign lands → Buzma, Sri Lanka, etc. Java etc. This prevented external attack of Mauryas and kept the empire stable and hence overall welfare.

d) Promoted environment's cause by planting trees.

e) Improved overall public administration through welfare because of paternalistic attitude.

Hence overall, Dhammavijaya was able to achieve moral and administrative welfare of people.

Give an account of Indian participation in the silk trade through Central Asia.

→ On the basis of coins and literary evidence, historians have deduced that trade in India expanded rapidly between 200 B.C. to 300 A.D. Indian participation in silk trade through Central Asia was one of the main reasons.

Many factors were responsible for India's involvement in the silk trade.

Political factors.

Romans were skilled in technology

a) Trade between Holy Roman Empire and Han Empire of China.

— Roman glass was coveted by Chinese rulers and Chinese silk was famed world over. But Chinese exported silk through India, ~~then~~ to Rome because there was a tussle between ~~Indian~~ Parthians in the north-west and Holy Roman Empire. Parthians prevented direct trade → hence opportunity for Indian traders in silk trade.

(Mauryas, Shakas, Kushanas)

b) Indian state (also promoted this trade because it was additional income to the treasury in addition to taxes from agriculture.

Urbanisation and guilds

From 6th century B.C. there was formation of different Janapadas. Agricultural surplus led to large scale urbanisation. This led to imperial city establishments and demand for

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luxurious goods such as Chinese silk. Surplus also meant development of guilds / traders who actively participated in trade.

Religious factors:

Both Jainism and Buddhism promoted accumulation of wealth. This encouraged Vaishyas to get involved in foreign silk trade.

~~This~~ ^{This trade} was advantageous for Buddhist Sanghas also which were established along trade routes.

Geographical factors:

Presence of inland navigation (provided by Ganga river system) facilitated ^{easy} transportation of goods. Uttarapatha and Dakshinapatha continued to be used in Central Asian trade which was also helped by presence of passes in Himalayas towards Central Asia.

Role of agriculture:

Indian spices, cotton, jute was coveted by the Chinese who exchanged silk in return.

All the above factors enabled India to actively trade with Central Asia.