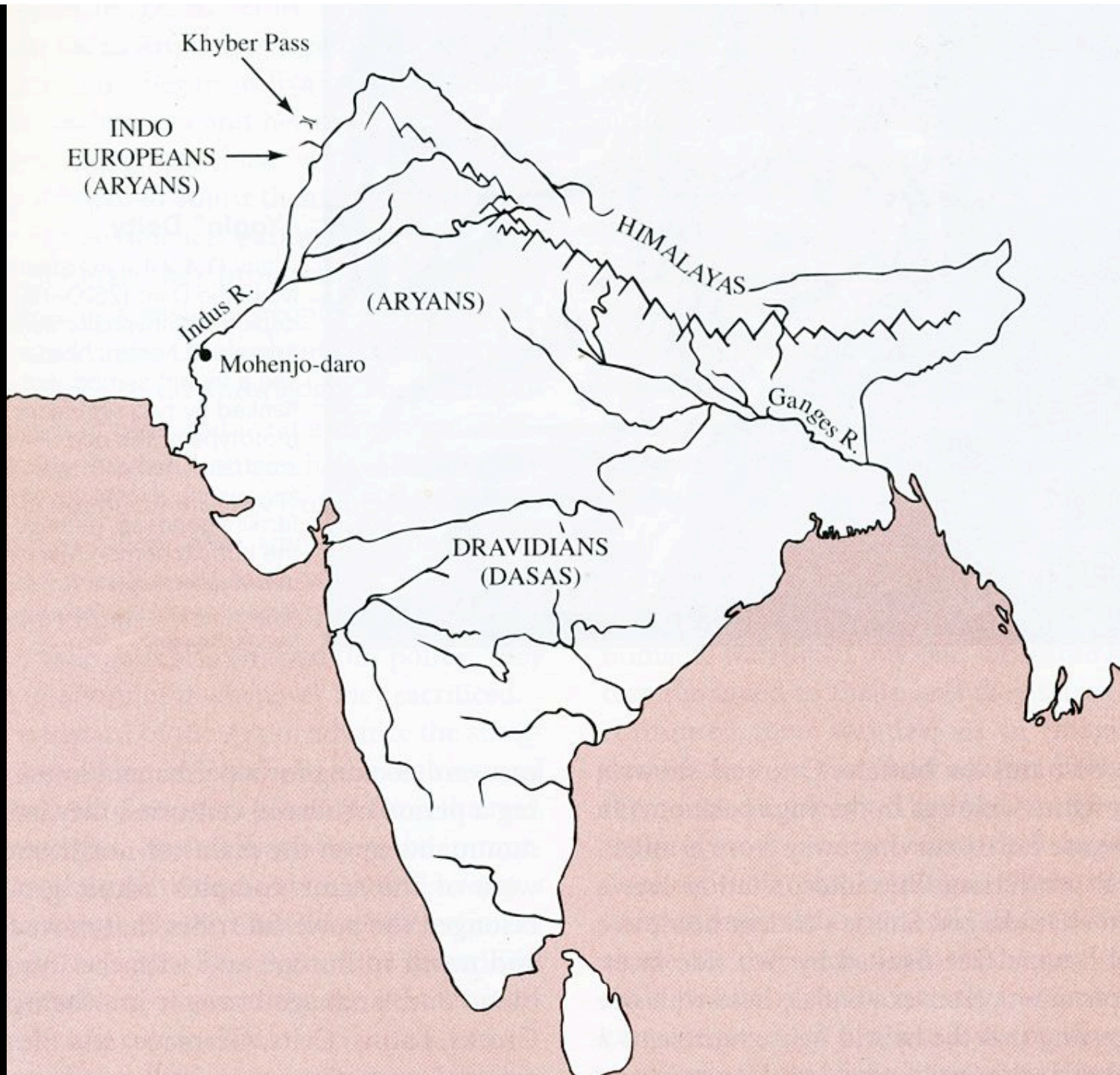


# Hinduism

Foundation era





# The Hindu Scripture

Shruti (“That Which is Heard”)

1. Samhita - “collection” of hymns.
  - Rig-Veda (hymns) ca. 1500 - 900 BCE
  - Sama-Veda (“Chant”)
  - Yajur-Veda (“Sacrifice”)
  - Arthava-Veda (magical spells and incantations)
2. Brahmanas ca. 850 BCE - key concepts: Varna (caste).  
Aranayakas ca. 500BCE
3. Upanishads “Vedanta” ca. 500BCE - Philosophical works.  
Key concepts Brahman, Atman, Maya, Yoga, Nirvana

Smriti (“That Which is Remembered”)

1. Dharma Shastras -conduct, hygiene, administration  
Laws of Manu ca. 200BCE
2. Puranas and Epics - popular literature  
Bhagavata Purana, glorifying Vishnu and Krishna  
Suta Samhita, glorifying Shiva (advaita philosophy)  
Ramayana  
Mahabharata (including the Bhagavadgita).
3. Darshanas - the 6 schools of philosophy
4. Agamas or Tantras (sectarian scriptures)

Adapted from V. Raghavan in K.W. Morgan, The Religion of the Hindus.







